

JPRS-NEA-87-044

14 APRIL 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

14 APRIL 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Sudanese Intellectual Defends Egypt Against Leftist Detractors ('Ali Abu-Sinn; AL-MUSAWWAR, 27 Feb 87)	1
Egypt-Sudan Brotherhood Charter Published (AL-TADAMUN, 28 Feb-6 Mar 87)	8
Cairo Hosts International Symposium on Gulf War (AL-TADAMUN, 7 Mar 87)	13

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

President Addresses International Islamic Conference (Sayyid Abu Dumah; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 9 Mar 87)	17
President Addresses African Minisummit on Continent's Problems (Hasan 'Ashur, 'A'ishah 'Abd-al-Ghaffar; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 12 Mar 87)	19
Government Urged To Devote Attention to Rising Sectarianism (Fahmi Huwaydi; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 10 Mar 87)	22
Interior Minister on Sectarian Strife (Zaki Badr Interview; AL-AHRAM, 21 Mar 87)	28
AL-JUMHURIYAH on Difficulties Facing Private Sector (Muhammad al-Haywan; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 12 Mar 87)	32

Prominent Journalist Discusses Guild Elections (Anis Mansur; AL-AHRAM, 10 Mar 87)	34
Briefs	
Teachers to Kuwait	36
LIBYA	
Al-Qadhdhafi Interview on North Africa Policy, Terrorism (Mu'mmar al-Qadhdhafi Interveiw; EL PAIS, 26 Jan 87)	37
MOROCCO	
Editorial on Negative Compromise for Joining EEC ('Abd-al-'Ati al-Wagdhiri; AL-'ALAM, 15 Feb 87)	42
Vice-Chairman Djellal El-Said Interviewed (Zuhur al-Siba'i; AL-MAJALLAH, 4-10 Mar 87)	45
Development for Northern Provinces (AL-'ALAM, 15 Feb 87)	48
Briefs	
Japanese Offshore Oil Drilling	50
Soviet Friendship Accord	50
Netherlands Cultural Cooperation	50
Saudi Aid for Dam	51
Air Link With Qatar	51
Figures on Fluorine Production	51
SUDAN	
Southern Political Disputes Reported (Fath-al-Rahman Mahjub; AL-TADAMUN, 7-13 Mar 87)	52
Al-Mahdi's Wife Comments on Internal Affairs (Sarah Fadil Mahmud Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 14 Feb 87)	56
Islamic Front Member Interviewed (Lubabah al-Fadl Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 21 Feb 87)	61
ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL	
Briefs	
Palestinians May Demand Citizenship	66
Al-Quds International Edition	66
Land Confiscation Statistics Reported	66

JORDAN

Briefs

Ambassador to Sudan	68
Ambassadors Present Credentials	68
GNP Registers Increase	68

SYRIA

Briefs

Outgoing Spanish Envoy	69
Brazilian Envoy Presents Credentials	69

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Nation's Universal Housing Program Reviewed ('Abd-al-Munsif Shukr; AL-ITTIHAD, 2 Jan 87)	70
Dubayy Health Projects Reviewed (Farid Wajdi; AL-ITTIHAD, 2 Jan 86)	72
Major Abu Dhabi Projects During Year Reviewed (AL-ITTIHAD, 30 Dec 86)	74
Economic Research Unit Surveys Expansion in Plastic Industry (Ibrahim Ahmad; AL-ITTIHAD, 27 Dec 86)	76
Briefs	
Religious Cooperation With Bangladesh	78

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Article Calls for Price, Inflation Controls (Muhammad Husayn Shuja'-al-Din; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 5 Nov 86)	79
Reorganization of Water Management System Approved (AL-JUMHURIYAH, 6 Nov 86)	82
Briefs	
Wadi al-Jawf Loan Agreement	83
Danish Economic Delegation	83
Yemeni-Soviet Friendship Week	83
Cultural Cooperation With India	84

SOUTH ASIA

IRAN

Musavi, Rafiqdust Discuss Underground Shelters, Other Issues (ETTELA'AT, 21 Feb 87)	85
--	----

Women's Congress Convened; Hezbollahi Women Visit Khomeyni (ETTELA'AT, 21 Feb 87)	88
--	----

Kurdish Leader Barzani's Biography, Interview Published (Edris Barzani Interview; ETELA'AT, 2 Feb 87)	92
--	----

PAKISTAN

U.S. Ambassador's Remarks Criticized (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 18 Feb 87)	98
---	----

Wali Khan Talks of 'Red Revolution' (Rahimullah Yusufzai; THE MUSLIM, 6 Mar 87)	100
--	-----

'Official Game' of Leaders' Arrest, Release Criticized (Sultan Ahmed: THE MUSLIM, 6 Mar 87)	101
--	-----

Benazir Talks About Zia, Rajiv, Other Matters (Aveek Sarkari; SUNDAY, 15-21 Mar 87)	103
--	-----

Proliferation of Arms in Punjab Criticized (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 19 Feb 87)	107
---	-----

Restrictions on Entry Into Sind Opposed (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 19 Feb 87)	108
--	-----

Police 'Raj', Brutality Criticized (VIEWPOINT, 5 Mar 87)	109
---	-----

Karachi: Federal Government Help Urged (VIEWPOINT, 5 Mar 87)	110
---	-----

Commentary Urges 'Pragmatic' Approach to Foreign Investment (THE MUSLIM, 5 Mar 87)	111
---	-----

/7310

SUDANESE INTELLECTUAL DEFENDS EGYPT AGAINST LEFTIST DETRACTORS

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Feb 87 pp 26-27

[Article by 'Ali Abu-Sinn: "The Sudanese Political Parties and the Camp David 'Peg'--Is Egypt the Traitor?"]

[Text] The writer 'Ali Abu-Sinn is a leading Sudanese intellectual. Although he belongs to the [Democratic] Unionist Party, he shows independence of opinion and freedom of thought. He is a supporter of Nile Valley unity.

I want this discussion to be aimed at the Sudanese political parties in general and the Sudanese and Egyptian left in particular. We are interested in having this dialogue with the left in particular because the Sudanese left, with its new face after the uprising, has come to express in its announced policies and literature the nationalistic feeling of our people more than at any time in the past. Its stands have become characterized by deliberation, modesty, a desire for democratic coexistence, and a deep sense of responsibility. Although I can say this with a reasonable amount of confidence about the Sudanese left, I cannot say it with the same confidence about the Egyptian left, which deals with a highly complex political milieu and which lacks many of the elements of unity, intellectual homogeneity, and a climate of free dialogue.

The subject of our discussion here with the parties of the left is the Camp David issue, inasmuch as some parties, such as the Ummah Party, the Communist Party, and the Nasirites, have decided to make Camp David a fixed element in their political philosophy. Their spokesmen point to Camp David as a source of continual condemnation for Egypt and hold that anyone who condemns Camp David is necessarily and automatically progressive and an enemy of imperialism.

We want to tell these gentlemen to go slowly and carefully, for the question is not so simple. After Camp David, people became accustomed to disburdening themselves of all their sins and attaching them to the body of Anwar al-Sadat. Even those who wanted to see Egypt prostrate under the heel of Israel so that it would not disturb them with its nationalistic claim, joined the chorus of critics of Camp David and were enthusiastic about continuing the battle against America and Israel until the last Egyptian soldier.

Egypt was forced to sign the Camp David Agreement in circumstances that can be perceived by everyone who wants to look at matters with objective responsibility and recognition of the facts of life. Al-Sadat's signing Camp David was not an act of national treason, as satellites and satellites of satellites like to echo.

I know that what I am saying will surprise many and anger some. The truth, however, should give the most satisfaction. It would be stupid for us to forget that the man who concluded the Camp David Agreement as a tactical, temporary, and calculated action was the same man who issued the 1973 war decision, inflicted a real defeat upon the Israeli army in Sinai, smashed the mythical Bar Lev Line, and forced America to start a huge airlift to save Israel. I do not want to detail at this point the control the Arab world gained over its sources of natural wealth and the price of oil as a result of the October 1973 war, or Egypt's legitimate share of wealth of which they decided to deprive her on the charge of "treason." Al-Sadat explained his position clearly when he announced that the struggle with Israel was a struggle of generations and would not be decided in one generation. This is a fact that cannot be disputed.

The Iraq-Iran war, with its revelation of the role of Israel and America in supporting and arming Iran, and the reticence of the Sudanese parties, especially the left, about announcing the natural and logical conclusion from the events--in my opinion all this means that the left has fallen victim to "brain washing" carried out against it by those parties and countries that benefit from hostility to Egypt and isolating it.

I expected the position of the left to undergo a revolution that would distinguish it from the positions of the satellites and satellites of satellites. However, the left has continued to play deaf to the scandal into which Iran's Arab supporters have fallen. It is as if the left--God forgive me for saying so--had become venal and opportunistic.

What Are the Naked Facts About the Iran-Israel Axis?

1. Iran announced that its goal in attacking Iraq was to reach Jerusalem and liberate Palestine. Subsequently, it became clear that Iran was in close strategic alliance with the goals and leadership of the Zionist state.
2. Iran announced that its war against Iraq was a holy war in the name of Islam. Given, however, Iran's alliance with Israel's strategic goals, there is no rational explanation of Iran's motives except that they are racist and anti-Arab.
3. Iran called on all Arabs to boycott America, have no contact with it, and not negotiate with it. It has become clear that Iran, like the National Islamic Front in relation to John Garang, has throughout this period been receiving the emissaries of Reagan and Israel and concluding political and military deals with them. Such, it appears, are the ethics practiced in the name of Islam by those who summon up religious frenzy in modern times.

4. Iran now controls the Arab Shi'ites in Lebanon and is using them to harm the image of the Arab everywhere. Kidnappings take place in Beirut, but negotiations to free the victims and the paying of ransom take place in Tehran. The losers are the reputation, honor, and human rights of the Arabs, and the people subject to possible attack by the American 6th Fleet in reprisal are the helpless Lebanese people. Meanwhile, the Arab world, which placed its hope on the Syrian role in Lebanon, is surprised that Iran has become the deterrent power, while the Syrian role is limited to confronting the Palestinians--and it is Syria who invited Iran into Lebanon and reaped the consequences for itself.

5. Iran succeeded in persuading two leading Arab states, Libya and Syria, of her revolutionary spirit and [anti-]Americanness. What an advantage Iran has gained from this! Now it is boasting that the giant land-to-land missiles it is launching every day against Baghdad came as a gift from the Libyan arsenal. I, however, do not believe it, for reason will not accept it. Iran says that it has Syrian pilots. I reject this; accepting it would boggle the mind! Like Israel, Iran will be satisfied only with complete and unconditional support from these two countries. Last week, when the Libyan president asked to send an Islamic force to separate the belligerents and for the first time described the war as futile, Iran replied sharply to him and described his position as apostasy and treason. Libya replied that it had gone too far and renewed its support for Iran! At the Islamic summit conference, Syria violently attacked Egypt for continuing to have contact with Israel, not mentioning a word about the Israeli weapons for Iran.

6. In a nutshell, the picture of alliances in the Gulf war is that the countries supporting Iran against Iraq are Israel, the United States, Syria, and Libya.

7. It has been shown by evidence and decisive proofs that the idea of sending arms to Iran came first as a result of Israeli-Iranian negotiations at which there was a meeting of points of view around one concept: weakening the Arabs was in the interest of both countries.

8. Iran agreed to the diversion of arms profits to the contras, whom American intelligence is funding against the legitimate government in Nicaragua. The role of these forces is rejected even by the American Congress, since they represent open hostile intervention against an independent state.

9. A few days ago, the CIA announced that its contacts with Iran are continuing after the "Irangate" scandal and that it expects fruitful results from these contacts. During the recent battle of Basrah, observers noticed that the Iranian Air Force had returned to its former strength, having been supplied by American intelligence with spare parts, and that these contacts take place through the CIA, not through the American State Department.

What Are the Naked Facts About the Egypt-Israel Axis?

1. After the October war, the defeat of the Israeli army at the hands of the Egyptian army, and the smashing of the Bar Lev Line, Israel felt a strong desire to avenge its wounded pride. It therefore brought the Likud Party to

power, led by the chief terrorist, Menahem Begin, who formed a war cabinet to regain Sinai. American weapons poured into Israel as never before.

Neither the Egyptian nor the Arab position encouraged resumption of the fight at that moment of history, when Israel was making desperate efforts to snatch the feeling of victory from the Egyptian and Arab peoples. At this point, al-Sadat decided to carry out his great maneuver and offered to visit Jerusalem. He threw the world and Israel into confusion, and Israel is still counting its losses. The reason is that Egypt gave Israel "a fistful of wind and a harvest of chaff," in the form of the Camp David agreements. What were the Israeli gains from Camp David? Egypt regained Sinai, the oil, and other rights that had been lost; Israel opened its embassy in Cairo and received an Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv. A short time later, relations became tense, normalization halted, and the Egyptian ambassador returned from Tel Aviv; the oil and Sinai remained in Egypt's hands.

2. Egypt's President Husni Mubarak refused to meet the Israeli prime minister. With King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, and King Hassan, he has worked for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. When he met the Israeli prime minister after the latter's maneuver of meeting King Hassan had succeeded in weakening his position, he extracted from him a recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people and a concession about the international conference and the return of the Soviet Union to participation in peace efforts.

3. The Egyptian government has allowed the organized popular opposition in Egypt to demonstrate against Israel on all occasions. It has allowed Israeli publishers to be forbidden to participate in the International Book Fair. It has allowed the Israeli embassy to be stoned and blockaded, eliminating all traces of its existence within Egyptian society, so that no one even knows whether it still exists. In a related development, Israeli diplomats in Cairo have been subject to assassination on more than one occasion. In spite of the renowned expertise of the Egyptian investigators, the perpetrators of the assassinations still remain unknown.

4. Egypt has taken the correct Arab position regarding every attack by Israel or America against Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, or Libya.

5. Egypt has continually criticized the unconditional support America gives to Israel. It has sharply criticized the American veto in the United Nations on behalf of Israel and has voted against America and Israel on every Israeli aggression.

6. Egypt sent Israel a written warning against its participation in the American raid on Libya and communicated a similar warning to Israel from Jordan. Israel did not participate in the raid.

7. When the Palestinians under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat came out of the Syrian siege of Tripoli, Egypt offered Palestinian boats naval protection against possible Israeli attack and warned Israel that it would fight to defend those ships. It thereby guaranteed the passage of Palestinian forces

from Tripoli to Yemen and the Sudan and the safety of the leaders and fighters of the Palestinian resistance.

8. Egypt is succeeding every day in preventing a large number of African countries from restoring their relations with Israel. Egypt's argument in this is that Israel has not implemented its commitments under the Camp David agreement. Many African states are declining to restore relations with Israel out of respect for Egypt, rather than for any other country.

9. Egypt has achieved a clear success in exposing to the Europeans and the entire world the hostile nature of Israel. It has completely turned the scales against Zionist propaganda by making the call for peace that was Israel's monopoly before October. Israel has thus become the rejecter of peace. Between 1948 and 1973, on the other hand, it was the Arabs who in the eyes of the world were foes of peace.

10. Before, during, and after Camp David, Egypt has held fast to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. Never for a moment did Egypt abandon this position; rather, it convinced many European countries of it, even countries that did not have the courage to announce their conviction.

11. Egypt has offered and is still offering Iraq weapons, men, political and diplomatic support, expertise, and advice.

12. Egypt has stood by Jordan and helped lighten American pro-Israeli pressure on Jordan. This has created a responsible Arab bloc linked by relations to Washington, but rejecting surrender.

And Now, What Does the Left Want?

If we ponder the facts mentioned above, we shall reach a surprising conclusion. It seems that the words of the rejecters of Camp David do not match their deeds, while the deeds of those who are committed to Camp David do not match their words.

Those who reject Camp David call on us to boycott Israel and America. In the Gulf, however, they stand in the same camp with Israel and America; for the weapons being fired at Basrah and Baghdad from Iran are Israeli, American, Syrian, and Libyan! Those who signed Camp David call on us to conduct a dialogue with Israel and America to reach a just and lasting peace. In the Gulf, however, they stand in the same camp with Iraq, fighting the weapons of Israel and America; for the weapons being fired at Iranian cities are Egyptian, Jordanian, and Soviet!

What Is This Comedy We Are Watching?

Even if political parties and organizations in most parts of the Arab world define their positions on the Gulf war in a subservient and parrotlike fashion, we in the Sudan have no excuse for falling into a state of being brainwashed or braying with the others without analysis or consciousness.

Sudanese parties, writers, and intellectuals generally, and the left particularly, are called on to shake off intellectual laziness and submission to slogans and employ their minds boldly and courageously in examining the facts of this position and ceasing to condemn Egypt and Camp David, as if it were a part of their sacred principles on a level with socialism, independence, and nonalignment.

It surprised me that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, an intelligent and judicious man, criticized Camp David when speaking about relations with Egypt. I tell you, sir, that such "shooting from the hip" is not like you. Camp David, with its good and its evil, has in reality died and been emptied of all content.

As for our communist comrades, we ask them to distinguish between our problems and difficulties with the Egyptian government and the larger regional issues. We all join in demanding the extradition of Numayri to face trial. I strongly condemn the attempt by certain Egyptian officials to put pressure on the prime minister by courting his political opponents who are enemies of democracy, enemies of the future, and enemies of Egypt who once demanded the nationalization of Egyptian education in the Sudan.

I stress to my many friends in Egypt that this flirtation with the leaders of a religious frenzy that is threatening Egypt's peace, stability, and future has greatly lowered the value of Egypt's stock in the Sudan. Rumors that say that Egypt is trying to unite the Democratic Unionist Party and the National [Islamic] Front against the prime minister are dangerous. Were that to happen, the Sudanese people would as one man stand with the prime minister in any confrontation with Egypt. This is said in a spirit of truth and affection. I hope it reaches the heart and the mind. Perhaps the Sudanese Communist party's anger against Egypt has risen because of this flirtation, in addition to the incomprehensible difference that makes Egyptian democracy refuse to allow the Egyptian Communist Party to operate publicly. We in the Sudan are certain that experience will justify Egypt's taking another step forward and allowing the Egyptian Communist Party to operate publicly, and that Egypt will then discover that the taste of political life will become much sweeter.

As for our Nasirite brothers in Egypt and the Sudan, they have fallen captive to the everlasting and fruitless comparison between 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat. This is a comparison onlookers are eager to make, as well as those who were 'Abd-al-Nasir's enemies and then started to praise him for some psychological need after his death. The Nasirites have enough positive points to render superfluous the Camp David myth that they repeat in all their position statements. They are called on to transcend Camp David and al-Sadat's faults and shortcomings and to stop comparing. What a difference there is between the immortal leader ['Abd-al-Nasir] and the others, east and west!

At the same time, they must look with calm and responsible scientific analysis at the circumstances that led al-Sadat to sign Camp David and at the extent of his achievement in war and peace, just as they showed understanding for 'Abd-al-Nasir's acceptance of the Rogers initiative.

Anwar al-Sadat had his faults as a ruler. One of the greatest flaws in his personality and style of government was his strong fondness for the rich and millionaires and his hostility to nationalist intellectuals. These traits shocked Egyptians and Arabs, because people had not expected them from a leader of the July Revolution. However, Anwar al-Sadat's greatest problem was that he was fated to succeed 'Abd-al-Nasir--and who could succeed 'Abd-al-Nasir?

As for Camp David, the Egyptian people were content with it. They felt they needed it in order to catch their breath, reorder their ranks, and feel the sweetness of victory at least once. The Egyptian people are not traitors. Peoples do not betray. In fact, anyone who really knows Egypt knows that there is much more true Arab nationalism in the Egyptian people than in the other Arab peoples. Those who were in Egypt at the time of the October War and Camp David remember how bitter the Egyptians felt at having been abandoned by the Arabs since 1967; how 'Abd-al-Nasir died of grief at the breakup of the eastern front on which he was relying in the military confrontation with Israel; how the Arabs left the Palestine question to Egypt and started to make fun of the Egyptian army's 1967 defeat; how a well-armed Arab state refused to enter the October War because it was--so it said--a plan doomed to failure and withdrew its airplanes from Egypt; how another Arab state decided to cancel joint weapons production with Egypt, while calling on Egypt to embark on war; how these states demanded that Egypt repay its debts immediately and complained to the IMF, which forced al-Sadat to gather \$2 billion from the Egyptian people and pay it to these states; and how the Egyptian people discovered that the basic economic structures and services in its cities were utterly collapsing while in the oil countries there were rising signs of growth and prosperity which its owners could enjoy because Egypt had paid the price in the blood of its sons and by sacrificing its finest cities along the Suez Canal to be turned by Israeli artillery from gardens into ruins, with over 4 million people made refugees in less than a week. It was this migration that led to the ruin of Cairo and Alexandria and to the growth of the infamous "cemetery cities," where the remaining refugees still live among the dead on the outskirts of Cairo.

We still remember the impact on the Egyptian people of this heavy legacy of war's destruction and Arab recalcitrance. People of good will finally became worried that the situation would worsen into a lasting dislike in Egypt for the other Arabs. One of the strange differences in the psychological makeup of peoples is that the signing of Camp David was what helped restore a sense of Arab nationalism in Egypt after a period of great estrangement from the Arabs--estrangement that led some individuals to welcome the Israeli delegations during a brief time of that disturbed period. Camp David awoke the Egyptian nationalists' fears of Israeli and American plots. These plots were the real danger, and Egypt has been able to oppose them with alertness and sophistication.

There is no doubt in our minds that Egypt still has control of its national decisionmaking.

Finally, we say to everyone: Look at the alliances in the Gulf war, and tell us whether Egypt is the traitor.

EGYPT-SUDAN BROTHERHOOD CHARTER PUBLISHED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 28 Feb-6 Mar 87 pp 10-11

["Text" of Charter of Brotherhood, signed on 21 February, between Egypt and the Sudan]

[Text] Egypt and the Sudan have a special relation of destiny embodied by the everlasting Nile, cultural heritage, a common struggle, and strategic interests.

--Based on this reality, and as an expression of the will of the Egyptian and Sudanese people to realize their common hopes and confirm the special nature of the organic relation binding them, a relation embodied in unity of belief, history, culture, blood, and source of life, and in the fact that Egypt is the Sudan's northern extension and the Sudan Egypt's southern extension;

--And from a commitment to the historical responsibility of the Egyptian and Sudanese people in light of the democratic development embodied in the democratic experiment guiding both Egypt and the Sudan, an experiment based on respect for the role of the people, faith in the rights of man, respect for his fundamental freedoms, strengthening of the organizations that express popular demands, and respect for the constitution and the law through the democratic practice being witnessed by the people of the [Nile] Valley, united as they are by a democratic system, especially after the creative transformation effected by the popular uprising in the Sudan and by the change it caused in the course of the Sudan's entire domestic and foreign situation;

--The two peoples join in a desire to issue a Charter of Brotherhood between Egypt and the Sudan, to firmly implant these values, and to respond to our two peoples' aspirations for brotherhood and mutual connection.

Basic principles:

1. Based on their Arab affiliation and their desire to achieve solidarity between Arab peoples and states, the two countries affirm the need to realize these goals in order to advance the peace, development, progress, and stability of their Arab community.

2. At the African level, the two countries are working to continue mobilizing all efforts to oppose the policy of racial separation and to liquidate imperialism. They are working to reinforce the spirit of cooperation and solidarity between African peoples, so as to realize their goals of growth and stability. They support Arab-African cooperation and are working especially for coordination and cooperation between the countries of the Nile River basin, development of its resources, and the regulation and conservation of its waters.

3. At the Islamic level, the two countries are working for the solidarity of the peoples of the Islamic community and to participate and play their leading role in the great awakening of this community.

4. At the international level, the two countries are working through the policy of nonalignment to support issues of international peace and security and to establish a just international economic system and cooperation between the countries of the Third World, in order to realize their security and development, so as to confirm their participation in problems of international peace.

Joint strategic interests:

Egyptian-Sudanese relations are distinguished from other bilateral relations with other countries by constant factors that embody the special nature of these relations, as well as by joint and reciprocal interests between the two countries. These interests meet and find embodiment in a number of vital areas, necessitating the investment of the two countries' available but still incompletely exploited energies to support their economy and comprehensive development plans. This is to be done through coordination between development plans in the two countries, so as to serve the highest interests of the two peoples, by giving priority to meeting their needs from agricultural and industrial production, and by considering economic interests and organizations, whether collectively owned or the property of individual inhabitants of the [Nile] Valley, to be among the highest interests of the two countries, in order to achieve the release of energies and to provide a climate of continuity and stability.

In this context, the two countries are working:

In the economic area--

1. To take an interest in projects that serve the largest number of citizens in the fields of agriculture and industry, especially those that realize the basic and necessary requirements of both peoples; and

2. To make the best utilization of the fruit of the thought of scholars, technicians, and specialists in both countries and of the specialized economic and scientific studies they have offered in all fields.

They are working jointly to provide every opportunity to raise the scientific, educational, and technological level in the two countries and to provide scientific and technical cadres to participate actively in achieving economic

and social development between the two countries. They are doing this through cooperation to strengthen the role of educational, scientific, and cultural institutions by: (1) preserving the authenticity of the intellectual and cultural heritage of the two peoples; and (2) linking education with comprehensive development plans.

In the area of media and youth, [they are working]--

1. To support the role of the media in deepening the two people's mutual familiarization and in strengthening the fraternal ties that link them;
2. To establish improved channels of media contact to guarantee the flow of information to each country;
3. To create ties of contact and knowledge between young people, the hope of both peoples.

In the field of health services, [they are working]--

--To continue close cooperation, especially in the field of health care and the manufacture and provision of drugs.

In the field of transportation and communications, [they are working]--

--To provide a network of roads and wire or wireless communications that will assure ease of movement and communication, and to improve and support the means of river transportation.

These constants, basic elements, and joint strategic interests which exist uniquely in Egyptian-Sudanese relations make it the responsibility of the two countries to explore new horizons in order to strengthen and improve these ties, so as to bring joint and mutual benefit to the people of the two countries.

Joint political movement on changing issues:

1. The Sudanese South:

The Egyptian side expressed its understanding of the problem of the Sudanese South and its concern that the problem be solved within a purely Sudanese framework.

On this basis, [the Egyptian side] supports the Sudanese government's efforts aimed at holding the National Constitutional Convention. The Sudanese side supports Egypt's praiseworthy efforts which play a role in solving the problem of the South and in the stability of the region.

2. Current international and regional problems:

--The Arab situation:

Egypt and the Sudan welcome the initiatives both countries are making to clear the Arab atmosphere in order to achieve Arab solidarity.

--The Middle East problem:

The two sides believe that Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination are the foundation for bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East region.

Furthermore, they consider the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East the most appropriate means to reach this goal. They consider PLO representation and participation in this process an indispensable condition for achieving a comprehensive settlement, insofar as the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They implore the Palestinians to unite their ranks.

--The Gulf war:

The two sides express their deep regret at the continuation of this war that has inflicted on Islamic society as a whole heavy losses in lives and in the economic and financial capacities of the Islamic community.

Therefore, on the basis of Islamic doctrine, which calls for peace, they demand an immediate halt to this war and support all peaceful efforts made to this end. The two sides support all efforts at a peaceful solution of this problem.

--The Lebanese crisis:

The two sides condemn the external interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs that has led to the fragmentation of the situation in Lebanon and the continued inflammation of the Lebanese crisis.

From this perspective, they condemn the inhuman siege imposed on the Palestinian camps and call on foreign parties to withdraw immediately from the Lebanese scene, leaving the exercise of the right of sovereignty over all Lebanese territory to the Lebanese people alone.

--The Chad problem:

Egypt supports Sudanese efforts aimed at bringing about peace in Chad, stopping external interference, and preserving the unity and independence of Chadian territory, so as to preserve the stability of the region.

--The South Africa and Namibia problem:

The two sides are consulting bilaterally and with other parties to end the racist policy espoused by the racist Pretoria government. They consider the struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia a genuine and legitimate struggle stemming from the rejection by the peoples of the African continent of subordination or any racist practices.

--The issue of foreign debts:

The two countries are working toward cooperation and coordination in taking initiatives to alleviate the debt problem, so as to allow the implementation of development plans.

--Mechanisms for implementing the charter:

In an effort to implement and follow up the basic principles of the Brotherhood Charter, as well as move jointly on the political level, a Joint High Commission will be formed, headed by the prime ministers in Egypt and the Sudan, to follow up implementation of this charter and guarantee the achievement of its goals. It shall be composed of an adequate number of relevant ministers, as shall be agreed upon by the two chairmen of the commission. The commission shall meet at least once every 6 months, in each of the two countries in turn. Within this framework, intensive exchange of counsel shall take place between the two countries through diplomatic channels and other technical agencies involved with all subjects proposed to the commission.

The commission may form subcommittees to study a particular subject or subjects, as it shall see fit.

12937

4504/163

CAIRO HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GULF WAR

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7 Mar 87 pp 55-56

[Article: "President Saddam Husayn Tells Participants at the Cairo International Symposium to End the Gulf War: We Did Not Start the War and We Seek an Honorable Settlement"]

[Text] One hundred fifty prominent Arab and international intellectuals and politicians convened in Cairo for five sessions, that lasted 2 days, to discuss the Gulf war. They issued a communique on 14 February in which they advocated a cease-fire and called upon countries of the world to help in limiting the escalation of that destructive war. The symposium also received messages from presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak.

"It is necessary to impose a cease-fire without strings or conditions immediately at the Iraq-Iran front and to begin negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive and peaceful settlement." This quote was in the "Cairo Communique" issued at the conclusion of the International Symposium to End the Iraq-Iran War held in Cairo last 12-14 February. Organized by the World Peace Council and the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, the symposium was attended by some 150 participants from 30 countries and organizations.

The "Cairo Communique" emphasized strict adherence to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations; respect for their sovereignty, independence, and unity; the withdrawal of combatants to internationally recognized borders; and the exchange of prisoners of war.

The symposium expressed support for Security Council resolutions and initiatives by the United Nations, the Organization of Non-Aligned Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and a group of nonofficial organizations.

The "Cairo Communique" praised Iraq's willingness to respond to peace initiatives and urged Iran to show a similar responsiveness in order to allow a cease-fire to be immediately implemented.

The symposium, in its five sessions, discussed the various aspects of the war and its impact on life in the region. Participants denounced actions by world powers in taking advantage of that tragic war to stockpile weapons in the region while peace-loving forces throughout the world are calling for an end to this senseless war.

The conference also went on record in its rejection of clandestine conspiracies by the United States and Israel to supply Iran with arms, conspiracies which came to be known as the "Irangate scandal."

Egyptian writer 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi, president of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization had emphasized at the beginning of the conference that the Gulf war serves only the enemies of peace and development, to the point that Israel is stating night and day that one of its objectives is to perpetuate the Gulf war so that Arab and Islamic nations may lose the elements of power that threaten its security.

'Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi also emphasized that by supporting Iran, the United States is pursuing the same objective of weakening Arab and Islamic liberation forces and keeping the Gulf region too preoccupied with local conflicts to threaten its strategic interests in the area.

Romeish Chandra, president of the World Peace Council, pointed out that "the Gulf war is now in its seventh year as a result of hidden elements which aim at escalating the war and maintaining the region as a market for destructive weapons." He said: "The American Administration seeks to control the resources of the developing world and that because the Gulf region figures prominently in its strategy, Washington strove to support Iran through the arms deal in order to maintain its hegemony over the region."

Chandra added that it was logical to salute Iraq as the source of all initiatives to end the war. We do not support one party against the other but it stands to reason that Iran's religious slogans are as far as possible from religion. Religious faith does not advocate the killing of children and the destruction of property over the heads of unarmed inhabitants.

It is worth noting that the symposium, while still under preparation, dispatched to both Iran and Iraq messages amplifying the destructive impact of the war and urging them to put an end to it. It received from President Saddam Husayn a reply which was read in his behalf by 'Isam 'Abd 'Ali. Iran did not respond at all.

President Husayn said in his reply: "I would like to remind you of the established fact--which reality has proven beyond the shadow of the doubt--that Iraq was not the one to start the war nor did it wish for it to continue. We have sought, since the new regime assumed power in Iran in 1979, to establish between our two countries normal relations based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs. But the Iranian regime arrogantly rejected our efforts and responded with a hostile policy which was reflected since the beginning in its insistence on threatening Iraq's security and violating Iraq's territorial rights and which culminated in armed aggression on 4 September 1980. We have done everything we could to make the Iranian regime follow a course of wisdom. Its refusal to listen to reason forced our people to face aggression by exercising its legitimate right to self-defense."

The message said that "Iraq announced a unilateral cease-fire for five days beginning 5 October 1980 in response to an appeal by the president of Pakistan

who was then president of the Islamic Conference Organization. By accepting all the resolutions passed by the Security Council, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations, Iraq has tirelessly persisted in its efforts towards peace and an equitable and honorable settlement that would protect the rights and interests of both parties under international law. Motivated by a sense of responsibility, we would like to say that we welcome the premise of your message to restore peace and justice between the two nations."

In his message to the conference read by colleague Ahmad Hamrush, president of the Egyptian Organization for Afro-Asian Solidarity, President Husni Mubarak said: "Egypt's position towards the war was clear from the beginning. It has repeatedly warned against its dangers. The latest such warnings came in my remarks before the fifth Islamic Conference held recently in Kuwait."

"This war threatens the peace of all sister countries in the Gulf and undermines the security structure of all Islamic nations collectively."

Commending Iraq he said: "We in Egypt cannot ignore or overlook Iraq's constructive policy of accepting international initiatives to put an end to this vicious war in response to the call of peace and to the efforts of the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organizations, and the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations. At the same time, we beseech the Islamic nation of Iran to heed the Quran's call for peace (if they are inclined towards peace, so should you be) and to stop the bloodshed by agreeing to relevant international resolutions, agreements, and treaties."

Colleague Ahmad Hamrush remarked that the Egyptian Committee for "Afro-Asian Solidarity" has sided in this issue not with a certain country, regime, religion, or sect but with the cause of peace and with any creative effort to turn the resolutions and recommendations of these conferences into a tangible practical situation in the service of peace.

Ahmad Hamrush called for the formation of committees to champion peace and end the war.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Socialist Labor Party in Egypt, said that his party has been aware of the perils of this war especially that it serves the interests of the real enemy which is American imperialism in alliance with international Zionism.

Ibrahim Shukri illustrated his point with Israeli Knesset discussions on Israel's participation with America in the Iran arms deal. Knesset members approved of Israel's participation in the deal because they wanted the war to continue so that Arab and Muslim efforts to regain their rights in Palestine would be thwarted.

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, chairman of the (leftist) Unionist Party, said: "We are a progressive unionist party that believes that Egyptian security is inseparable from national Arab security. The party, therefore, strongly supports the Iraqi people's defense of their land against aggression."

Mustafa Kamil Murad, chairman of Egypt's Liberals Party, called for the "formation of an Islamic and Arab peace force to separate the two parties then invite them to negotiate."

Dr Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar, member of the Academy of Islamic Research and former president of Al-Azhar, appealed to both Iraq and Iran to seek peace as mandated by God's book.

There were several seminars at which important papers were presented and reviewed, including a study by Dr Fu'ad Mursi on "The War's Impact on OPEC" in which he asserted that the war contributed to the decline in oil prices and that the future of OPEC is endangered because exports by Iran, Nigeria, and Algeria account for half of [OPEC'S] oil production and yet Iran does not adhere to OPEC's internal agreements.

Strategy expert Gen Tal'at Muslim addressed another seminar on arms escalation in the Gulf region. He said military spending in the region has reached extremely dangerous proportions and that this would have a great impact on the arms race in the Gulf which would serve the interests of the major powers.

Dr Murad Ghalib, former Egyptian foreign minister, emphasized that the Gulf war has had great impact on the Movement of Nonaligned Nations and that the war falls within the American plan to break up the Movement.

The conferees appealed to all the people in the world with a free conscience to work for an end to the tragic war that has wasted more than a million men, women, and children especially since the Gulf has been flooded with innocent blood.

12945/12859
CSO: 4404/270

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Mar 87 p 5

[Article by Sayyid Abu Dumah: "Mubarak at the International Conference of Islamic Education: The Islamic Religion Will Remain the Spring from Which People's Hearts and Minds Are Nourished"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak stressed that the pure Islamic religion will remain the pure spring from which people's hearts and minds will be nourished, the spiritual place of refuge from all deviation and the straight path to affection, bounty and peace. It will remain a platform for progress and perfection as long as the Islamic peoples continue to adhere to its lofty morals and tolerant teachings. The president, in the statement he made yesterday to the international conference of Islamic education, called for the need to adhere to Islamic values, including freedom of thought, equality and justice, and implant them in young spirits, and demanded that it was necessary that we deepen in the members of the society the feeling of belonging to the nation, Arabhood and Islam because that strengthens the society in confronting the intellectual and doctrinal challenges facing them.

The president, in his statement, which Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, the minister of religious endowments, gave, stated that each educational philosophy had its values, and this was true of Islamic education. It relies on the values of Islam, and its supreme example is in keeping with modern tendencies in the world of education today. Among the most important of these values is the "value of science" which is the pillar of all progress in civilization. Islam has sanctified science and men of learning and has exalted learning to the level of worship. The values of Islamic education include "freedom of thought," which is opposed to imitation or intellectual stagnation. The liberation of thought from the restrictions on it in Islam was behind the Moslems' progress. From this premise, the scholars of Islam gave consideration to the mind and its role, even with respect to the derivation of the provisions of Islamic law, and the Moslems built a civilization for Islam which had the greatest effect in the history of human civilization.

Education in Islam affirms many other values, among them "the value of work." For work Islam has stipulated conditions, among them that it be good and beneficial for the individual and society. The most important values

include equality. The Arab does not receive preference over the foreigner except on the basis of piety. You all belong to Adam, and Adam is of dust. After that there is the "value of justice." One of the meanings of justice is that people not turn toward cravings within themselves which will cause them to fall prey to oppressing others, and another of its meanings is social justice, which assumes the form of having every individual in the society find sufficiency for himself.

Dr Abu al-Wafa al-Taftazani, the chairman of the conference, referred to the role Moslems must play in this era, proceeding from the Koran and the Sunnah, so that they may realize man's hopes for a better future. One of the best means for this is Islamic education, which makes the beliefs and provisions of Islam and moral values a basis of Islam. He requested that education in our schools and universities be in keeping with the values of Islam.

His eminence the senior imam, Shaykh Jadd al-Haqq 'Ali Jadd al-Haqq, the Shaykh of al-Azhar, requested that the conference be concerned to give prominence to the patterns of Islamic education for the individual and the society with which the holy Koran and the Sunnah are replete and to the facilitation of their dissemination in societies. He also asked the universities to teach these Islamic patterns and show their benefits and urged officials to establish special departments in the faculties concerned with Islamic education.

11887
CSO: 4504/162

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES AFRICAN MINISUMMIT ON CONTINENT'S PROBLEMS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Mar 87 p 3

[Article by Hasan 'Ashur and 'A'ishah 'Abd-al-Ghaffar: "We Face Work We Must Perform in the Spirit of a Single Team To Confront Dangers and Challenges"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, in the statement he gave at the opening of the African minisummit conference, asserted, "We face work we must perform with the spirit of a single team, from the premise of our belief in the unity and solidarity of the peoples of Africa, in confronting dangers and challenges. There are political and economic issues which dominate common attention in the continent. Heading these are the struggle against racism, terrorism in the south of the continent, foreign intervention in Chad, the existing struggles in the Horn of Africa, African indebtedness in its terrifying dimensions and the attainment of self-sufficiency in food production, with the advancement of a system to encourage the African countries to give absolute priority to one another in trade and economic cooperation, so that we may all work under the inspiration of our peoples' hopes and legitimate interests." Herewith is the text of the president's statement:

My brother and dear friend, the president of the Organization of African Unity, our dear brothers the heads of the fraternal African countries, the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity: It gladdens me to welcome you again to your country, in the midst of your people and your tribe, who are proud to belong, with you, to a single family and have been proud to belong to its civilization, legacy and lofty values.

Our dear friend Joseph Mumu spoke truthful phrases, with the objectivity which we have always been accustomed to from him, about the significance of the meeting of the office of the 22nd Organization of African Unity summit in this genuine African capital, under these circumstances which our struggle is passing through for the sake of our common goals in implanting the foundations of our political, economic and cultural independence, asserting the freedom of our will and decisionmaking and spreading peace and progress in all areas of our glorious continent.

I would like to take this occasion to express the most sincere statements of thanks and gratitude to President Sasu Nijestu for his initiatives in

calling for the holding of this meeting in Cairo, and to you all, brothers, for being so kind as to respond to this honorable invitation, expressing your sincere feelings toward Egypt, its people and its role, which are feelings every member of this fighting Egyptian people shares with you.

Allow me personally to express my happiness at meeting with you all and continuing the conversation with you concerning our common causes, our problems and our hopes. This is talk which enriches our experience and deepens our feeling of unity of positions and destiny. I consider it binding on us, at the beginning of this meeting, to refer to the great work which our dear brother the chairman of the organization is carrying out and the unremitting effort he is exerting on various fronts and in various international circles in representing us and in defending our common causes and interests. In this manner, he has been a truthful representative of African genuineness, a truthful exponent of the spirit of solidarity and fraternity among all our fighting peoples.

We Are All Partners in Responsibility and Destiny

In this same spirit, we are all standing by his side in his performance of the responsibility, the massive responsibility which he has assumed and are exerting our maximum effort to alleviate his burdens. We are all partners in responsibility and destiny and we are all working under the inspiration of the hopes and legitimate interests of our peoples.

Dear brothers and friends:

Great work faces us which we must perform at this fraternal meeting in the spirit of a single team, from the premise of our faith, which cannot be shaken, in the unity of the African peoples and their solidarity in confronting dangers and challenges, by virtue of the mutual trust which has grown among us through the lengthy experiences and numerous struggles we have engaged in, and engaged in together, with a single heart and a single hand. We may infer from the actual situation we are confronting in the course of our performance of responsibility and the transactions we have carried out in the context of the latest African conference in Addis Ababa that there are political and economic issues which dominate common attention in various areas of our glorious continent and it is therefore natural that we should give them the attention they merit at this meeting. We are in agreement in terms of the definition of these causes and the ranking of their priorities. In their forefront come the issue of the struggle against racism and terrorism in South Africa, the problem of foreign intervention in Chad, the issue of the Sahara and the conflicts underway in the Horn of Africa.

A Realistic, Practical Platform in a Manner Compatible with Our Peoples' Aspirations

On the economic side, we find ourselves faced with the issue of African indebtedness in its terrible dimensions and the need to realize self-sufficiency in the production of food.

To this I would like to add the need to set out a system for encouraging the African countries to give absolute priority to one another in trade and

economic cooperation. Indeed, an African country should not resort to obtaining a commodity from foreign markets unless it is not possible to procure it in the African market. Otherwise, African solidarity will be lacking one of its most important elements and attributes.

I propose that we set out a realistic, practical platform for dealing with these issues in the coming period, so that we will work with a context which can be realized in a specific time stage in a manner compatible with our peoples' aspirations and their legitimate demands.

Allow me to refer to the letter we received from the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization concerning the aggression the inhabitants of the camps in Lebanon are being subjected to. We are dealing with this issue in the context of our effort to realize a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem which is founded on respect for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, a right which you have been correct in supporting and reaffirming in the international framework.

May Every African Hand Which Is Added to the Great Structure Be Blessed

Long live free, independent Africa, long live the unity of the African struggle for the sake of freedom, dignity and progress, and may every African hand which is added to the great structure through toiling labor and sincere effort be blessed. May God give us success and oversee our work. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

11887

CSO: 4504/162

EGYPT

GOVERNMENT URGED TO DEVOTE ATTENTION TO RISING SECTARIANISM

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Mar 87 p 7

[Article by Fahmi Huwaydi: "Gentlemen, Pay Attention; Sectarianism Has Been Reawakened in Egypt"]

[Text] It is not unusual for relations between Muslims and Copts in Upper Egypt to become tense for one reason or another. Feuds among fellow citizens will happen. But what is truly unusual is that key figures representing those who are involved in this controversy--fathers and family elders--are acting like spectators. It is unusual to discover in the midst of a crisis that no distinguished and respected family member will step forward and hold each party in check, and it is unusual to discover that a country as large as Egypt with roots going back as far as Egypt's cannot contain such tension and get to the bottom of its causes.

It is also unusual that we let the government deal with this tension between Muslims and Copts by itself, thereby allowing the tension to become a security problem which police and soldiers have to deal with. News about this tension can be found in newspapers, scattered here and there amidst reports on accidents and cases of embezzlement and narcotics smuggling. This tension between Muslims and Copts is not being seen as a political issue for which the national conscience should be called to action. It is not being seen as a primary public concern issue, and reasonable people in responsible positions are not facing up to it and dealing with it.

This being the case, we would like to take the liberty of stating that action is not the worst thing in the matter because it is the reaction to what is happening that is really worse. We also wish to take the liberty of claiming that the real problem does not seem to be in Upper Egypt as much as it seems to be in what has happened to Egypt's mental attitude and awareness.

Let's be frank. The subject is too important to be hushed up or discussed in whispers. The only thing we can do is take this matter very seriously.

The details here do not concern us. We are not engaged here in investigating who was and was not at fault, nor are we trying to identify the perpetrator and the victim because there are more important matters now. We are being asked to stop the civil strife whose ugly head is beginning to appear in our midst. We are

being asked to contain the sparks of that fire before they start flying all over the country relentlessly and unremittingly. After all, aren't most fires started by very small sparks?

Why Are We Ashamed?

Let us agree first on a matter of principle which has to do with our attitudes about our various social and political ailments. We do not understand why we are ashamed of the fact that some ailments do exist in our midst when no human society on the face of this earth is free of such ailments. Religious, sectarian and ethnic sensitivities can be found everywhere, just as political and class hatreds and conflicts are. The United States of America has had a race problem for quite some time. Recently, a race problem has emerged in Britain and France. Ireland has had a sectarian problem, and in that country Catholics and Protestants have been fighting a fierce war. And the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and other countries have a deep-seated, chronic ethnic problem.

Although such disease-causing problems are scattered everywhere, the difference between one country and another is manifested first in a country's own impregnability and immunity to the consequences of such disease-causing problems. The second difference is manifested in the manner in which a country deals with such problems. Does it deal with them as problems which can be remedied, or does it deal with them as blemishes that have to be covered up?

I think that we in Egypt do not see our country as an artificial entity which the wind can blow away. Nor are we a fragile entity that can be shaken up by an unexpected incident here or there. We have what it takes to have the stability, confidence and certainty that would enable us to deal with whatever comes our way without fear or trepidation.

What harm could come from outlining the true facts of the problem to the people and presenting that problem to them in its real magnitude and normal context? We could then hold everyone responsible for finding a solution to the problem, and we could call upon each party in the controversy to assume its responsibility for it. Chief among those who would be asked to assume such responsibility are Muslim and Coptic representatives.

What harm could come from stating candidly and unequivocally that fanaticism in general has become a native disease in Upper Egypt, just like revenge? What harm could come from stating that the germ of religious fanaticism in particular was brought into the country by the earliest western missionaries? Those missionaries came to Upper Egypt early in the 18th century and settled in Asyut where they established Protestant missions more than 100 years ago.

What harm could come if we were to remind everyone that this is not a matter of mosque or church and not a question of Muslims and Copts, but that it has to do with the homeland? There are those who wish to see our country torn apart and fragmented so that it would surrender and forever be on its knees. This is the dream that many have had in the past and many still have. This dream was revealed early this century by Lord Cromer, the British Commissioner. In his book, "Misr al-Hadithah" [Modern Egypt] Lord Cromer talked about an "international Egypt" which would not represent one political unity but would consist

of separate communities of Muslims, Copts, Europeans, Asians and Africans. Discussions like that came up again in recent years at a symposium that was held in 1978 at Princeton University in the United States. A new map for the Middle East was discussed at that symposium: in it the countries of the region would disintegrate into racial, sectarian and religious mini-states.

This Is Not the Day of Judgment

It is regrettable that the language used to address this matter tended to paint a horrifying picture of what was happening or attach little importance to it. Some people said the Day of Judgment had come, and others said, "Everything is all right." They saw what happened as nothing more than a summer's cloud which had dissipated. They said that harmony and concord had been restored and that everyone would live happily ever after.

Except for a limited number of articles which called attention to the real magnitude of the question, most of what was published by opposition newspapers about the subject lacked the required measure of objectivity or responsibility. These reports or commentaries gave readers the impression that a civil war was sweeping Upper Egypt. They spoke about entire governorates involved in civil strife, not just one city, a part of a city or maybe a suburb here or there. And that has nothing to do with the rest of Upper Egypt; it is nothing more than noise and idle chatter. Furthermore, there are those who are deliberately stirring up people's feelings, not only against the government, but also against the Copts. If that were not so, why then would a newspaper have a first page headline announcing "Mosque Burned in Sawhaj?" That newspaper made no reference to what happened to the church there. And what is the significance of another newspaper publishing that a Muslim police officer who believes in God had torn up the Koran in front of students at the College of Business in Sawhaj? Something like that is inconceivable!

There are those who were precipitous and quick to judge. They blamed fanatic Muslims for what happened even though fanaticism is no longer the exclusive property of any one party. Although Asyut has had an extremist faction of Muslims that became known as al-Jihad Group, we read in a national paper a few weeks ago an announcement from the Christian al-Jihad Society in Asyut thanking all those who had made monetary and material contributions.

And there were also some people who found an opportunity to settle accounts with Islamic economic institutions and open fire on them. Someone wrote: "It is no coincidence that some large financial institutions are financing religious fanaticism in Egypt. These institutions have connections with some Arab regimes that have close ties to American colonialism and Israel."

Such important and momentous words were spoken without due consideration or explanation, as though this were mere chitchat on a sidewalk cafe and not a statement issued from a platform for political activity.

In the same measure, we do not think that treatment of the subject by the national press was adequate. The limited news that was printed was more premature and more condensed than it should have been. The Ministry of Interior's

statements deliberately made light of the matter as much as possible. The first news report about events in Sawhaj in which a mosque and a church were burned was published under the headline "Short Circuit Causes Fire in Historic Mosque in Sawhaj." When a correction from an official in the Ministry of Interior was printed, with an account about the true events in Bani Suwayf and Sawhaj, that official was reported to have said, "Extremists in Bani Suwayf are the cause and reason for the problem. They insist that female students cover their heads when they come to class, and they insist on using cloth curtains to separate male and female students in the classroom." If this were true, then how were Copts brought into the picture? The same source is reported to have said this about events in Sawhaj: "Extremists prodded and encouraged some boys to start a fire in the church. Seven persons between the ages of 16 and 17 have been arrested." That is, these boys are still secondary school students.

Our weekly magazines proceeded on the same course. One of them, taking the approach that everything was all right, published a report that the fire at the Sawhaj mosque had been put out. The magazine said that the governor had ordered immediate repairs for the mosque and that people were now praying in it. This is the mosque "which had been destroyed by the fire." All this had happened only 4 days after the incident. If this were true, that governor will have to be called "a miracle worker." We will have to call on him so he can use his magic wand and extraordinary powers to solve all our very difficult problems.

They Do not Deceive the Copts

Civil strife between Copts and Muslims reached its most critical point between 1908 and 1911 A.D. with the outbreak of the sectarian problem. A few suspect figures planned a Coptic conference in Asyut on 6 March 1911. Encouraged by the British, Muslims quickly held an Egyptian conference in Cairo 2 days later, on 8 March. It seemed at first that a division had occurred between the nation's Copts and Muslims and that efforts to create a falling out between the two groups had been fruitful. But reasonable Copts and Muslims addressed the conferees to mend the rift and urge harmony and unity. The malicious plan was eventually foiled.

At that time Wisa Wasif, a leader of the National Party, wrote articles admonishing Copts to turn away from sectarian disputes. In 1908 he called upon Copts to strive through political action not sectarian action to achieve their demands. In his book, "Al-Masihiyah wa al-Islam 'ala Ard Misr" [Christianity and Islam in Egypt] Dr William Qiladah recalls that in 1911 the newspaper AL-WATAN stated quite clearly that "Copts should not be deceived by the encouragement they are receiving from London. Nor should Muslims be deceived by the satisfaction demonstrated by the British commissioner, (Ghurst) and his men. In both cases only one objective was being sought, and that is to weaken Egyptians and to let them crush each other politically."

When the voice of reason was heard among the conferees, everyone realized that the nation's unity was too precious and too valuable to waste. They realized that a man without his brother is weaker than everybody else and becomes an easier target for everybody.

In his book "Al-Muslimun wa al-Aqbat fi Itar al-Jama'ah al-Wataniyah" [Muslims and Copts in the Context of a National Community] Mr Tariq al-Bishri wrote a profound and detailed account of the true British role in the attempt to stir up sectarian strife in Egypt. Successive chapters of that malicious plan were recorded, and 1,000 witnesses and pieces of evidence testified to the colonialist government's persistent effort to penetrate the country, an effort that colonialist government started ever since it set foot in Egypt in 1882 A.D.

One of the most important sections of the book, however, is that chapter which discusses the 1919 Revolution. The nation's wishes were united under that revolution, and all aspects of fanaticism and elements of civil strife vanished completely. Muslims and Copts without exception stood behind Sa'd Zaghlul, the leader of the revolution. Mr Zaghlul, who was a graduate of al-Azhar, was able to personify the nation's spirit, its living conscience and its genuine unity.

What matters to us about the revolution is that it awakened the nation's spirit and caused it to rise above all hatreds and all the consequences and effects of sectarianism as well. Just as the unity of the revolution was associated with its triumph over sectarianism, its fragmentation was associated with its powerlessness in the face of sectarianism. This is the feeling that was demonstrated by al-Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mutallib, an al-Azhar scholar, who addressed a large group of Muslims who had joined in a celebration of the Coptic new year. Al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mutallib was telling everybody, "Both Copts and Muslims have a religion they believe in."

Forsaking the Country Is Godless

When the nation found an important and worthy objective on which it could agree, all small matters were forgotten, and fanaticism as well as the pitfalls of dissension and civil strife were spurned. The worthy objective stimulated the country's immune system and restored its health. It was thus able to block all opportunities to generate fanaticism and sectarianism among the people, and it prevented the various maladies of weakness and despondency from establishing their hold on the country.

By the way, doesn't this make us wonder where in our day and age is that objective or plan that would strengthen the nation's resolve, bring together all its people, fuse its wishes into one and respond to its pride and ambitions?

Where Are the Sensible People?

There is another question that is being asked under current conditions. Where are the sensible and wise people?

During the civil strife of 1911 the voice of reason was able to put out many sparks and keep emotions under control. The voice of reason among the Copts was represented by Tawfiq Daws, Saynut Hanna and Murqus Hanna. Among Muslims the voice of reason was represented by Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Latif and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahmi. There were others too who had sided with the nation rather than the sect; they had sided with reason and with the nation's interest rather than with emotion and impetuosity.

We have been listening everywhere ever since the first signs of the civil strife became noticeable, but we have neither heard the voice of reason nor seen reasonable people take action or play a role. This is something that makes us wonder and feel amazed. The implication of the silence of high-ranking people in the country about the foolishness of the young is unacceptable; it is not something that we had hoped for. When fire broke out in the town of Mit Ghamr in 1902 Imam Muhammad 'Abduh, who was then the mufti of Egypt, traveled throughout the country for 30 days asking people to contribute to a fund to compensate the victims of the fire and help them. He did not return to Cairo until he had achieved his objective and carried out his duty as an imam and a shaykh.

In the 1870's when Catholic and Protestant missionaries were playing an active role in Asyut, Patriarch Kirillus V himself went to that city. He traveled from Cairo on board a vessel to see for himself what was happening. Then he issued his orders, and those orders put an end to what wicked offenders were doing. He stripped a priest of his position because he had allowed his brother, a graduate of the American Missionary College, to serve in the Coptic Church.

Under these conditions the country needs an influential effort of this kind. We need to have our leaders and people of wisdom in our country face up to these conditions, but we do not know where they are hiding or why they are being silent?

Such an effort would correct the mistake, put a lid on the turmoil, control emotions and alert those who have not been paying attention. Furthermore, such an effort would certainly guarantee that those who strive deliberately or foolishly to foment civil strife will have no opportunities to do so.

The fact that no one is playing such a role is part of the reason for our present crisis which we said is not only in Upper Egypt. Our present crisis lies in Egypt's awareness and in its rationality.

If our high-ranking citizens do not appear on the scene in major events, when do they appear? Where would they play their roles and how would they employ their influence and their clout if they do not do so at such times?

8592
CSO: 4504/160

INTERIOR MINISTER ON SECTARIAN STRIFE

JN241202 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Mar 87 p 3

[Interview with Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr by 'Izzat al-Sa'dani;
date not given]

[Excerpt] He who boards this secure, safe boat, which carries all Egyptians hand in hand, must remove rancor from his heart and purify his soul from the sins of sedition. The interior minister began with this magical statement as soon as we sat in an isolated, quiet part of his spacious, comfortable room. I said while collecting my thoughts: Who can board the boat and who cannot?

I said: And what about those banned from travelling?

He said: Those who became shameless and began to incite the dormant sedition and spread rumors which separate the brother Muslims and Copts. We are all Egyptians abroad the mother ship.

I said: Is it an imported commodity?

He said: You mean the sedition?

I said: Yes.

He said: They are purely internal unconnected incidents. A false rumor spread and exploded unjustifiable, untimely incidents.

I said: As happens in the same house; two brothers quarrel and soon reconcile again.

He said: This is what exactly happened.

I said: And the outcome?

He said: We arrested 188 persons in Bani Suwayf, Sawhaj and Dishna. Only 17 of them are still in custody pending interrogation.

I said: Only 17 while the Western media, which are looking for bad news, are shouting: Sectarian sedition has erupted in Egypt!

He said: Have I not told you they are rumors and lies!?

I said: President Husni Mubarak has warned those playing with fire.

He said: We are fully vigilant. He who plays with fire will be the first one to have his fingers burned.

I said: Mr Interior Minister, why are you so calm while the world is in fire out there?

He said: The rain will extinguish any fire.

I said: With no rhetorical metaphores, what did you do with the sectarian sedition?

He said: We have nothing called sectarian sedition.

I said: And the Al-Qutb Mosque and Virgin Church fire in Sawhaj?

He said: Only an electric short circuit in the electricity booth near the 183-year-old wooden mosque.

I said: We understand the mosque fire, whatabout the fire in the church opposite it?

He said: A spontaneous reaction by a group of zealous youths who saw the mosque on fire.

I said: Without premeditation?

He said quickly: With no premeditation from either side.

As if he felt that I was not fully convinced. He opened a red file and said while turning its pages: Do you want the full truth?

I said: The whole truth.

He said: The beginning was a rumor spread by the mob about the spray which caused crosses on the clothes of veiled women. The situation exploded after the rumor spread inside some Bani Suwayf colleges belonging to the Cairo University and a number of institutes and technical, industrial, agricultural schools. Subversive demonstrations took to the streets and extended to the town of Biba, which is 30 km away. Security men intervened at the appropriate time. Praise be to God no human or material losses took place. Some 154 persons, most of them young people, were arrested. They were all released except for 2 persons who will remain in custody for another 15 days.

I said: They say the beginning was not in Bani Suwayf.

He said surprised: Where was it then?

I said: In the village of (Sayyid Mint al-Jabal), center of Ihnasiyah.

He said: Are you referring to the issue of the land owned by the church and around which a wall was built by the monks and then destroyed by the citizens? A road which has been used for a long time by the citizens passes through this land. However, the land is legally and legitimately owned by the church. The dispute ended with reconciliation between the citizens and church.

I said: Let us go back to the story of the spray that causes the sign of a cross.

He said: The Criminal Laboratory, the National Center for Scientific Research, and the textile factories have revealed the truth. It has been affirmed without any doubt that the cloth is the cause.

I said: How?

He said: Some cloth tends to develop a mark which looks like a plus sign, which some thought was a cross.

I said: Why did you not explain this fact at the time so that the rumors would be nipped in the bud.

He said: We announced this fact after it was revealed by the scientists.

I said: Let us talk about Sawhaj and its events.

He said while reading the red file: We arrested 20 persons after the burning of the mosque and the church. The prosecutor renewed the detention of 11 persons, including 2 university students, and the rest were released. In connection with the Dishna events in the Governorate of Qina, we arrested 14 persons, including 8 secondary school students. Those are still in custody.

I asked: What about the losses?

He said: With regard to the loss of cars in Bani Suwayf, there were no losses; in Dishna, they tried to burn four cars, but praise be to God, the four cars were saved. One of the four cars belongs to the pastor of the Greek Coptic sect and the other three, Chevrolet trucks, can be repaired. In Sawhaj, one vehicle belonging to Nazir Mikhail 'Abd al-Nur, was damaged.

I said: What were the property losses?

He said: Three shops in Sawhaj--one a pet shop owned by 'Usamah William Sayf. The Criminal Laboratory said that this place was burned as a result of a short circuit. There were two attempts to burn a clothes shop owned by Hanna Marzuq Hanna and a paint shop owned by Midhat Wasif al-Najjar. The outcome as you see was that 188 were arrested, 171 of which were released and the other 18 persons are still being interrogated. No girls were among them; 3 vehicles damaged; and 3 shops burned.

I said: In your capacity as a man of security, what is your assessment of the so-called sectarian sedition?

He said: These are unpremeditated, transient individual incidents. In our capacity as security men we will be lying in wait for them to prevent a repetition and to nip any other attempt in the bud. He who plays with fire must beware because his hands will be burned before realizing what has taken place.

I asked: Is there an outside wicked hand, instigating the sedition?

He said: Never. As nobody exports terrorism to us nobody also exports sedition to us or estrangement between the brother Muslim and his brother the Copt. Everything that happened here was by Egyptians.

I said: Who is the perpetrator?

He said: Youthful hotheadedness and unconscious religious enthusiasm, nothing more nothing less. I tendentious rumor exploded the whole situation exactly like the Central Security incidents. It was just a rumor about a 1 year increase in service. This provoked everybody and created a revolution without direction from anybody. I challenge those who say that the Central Security incidents were premeditated.

I said: What is the situation now?

He said: It is very calm now. It suffices to say that the Islamic and Christian men of religion shook hands when President Husni Mubarak visited Al-Minya. This is a sign of love and unity. The Al-Azhar shaykh and the Awqaf minister exerted good efforts to contain the crisis. The Christian priests, bishops, and monks did the same thing.

/6662

CSO: 4500/76

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON DIFFICULTIES FACING PRIVATE SECTOR

JN160902 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Mar 87 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Haywan]

[Text] Some people imagine that the rich Arab countries are responsible for our economic crisis because they do not give us as much as they should. Others also believe that the United States is responsible for feeding us, and that it must provide us with all our needs, and that all we have to do is to sit cross-legged and ask the rich Arab countries to pay and the United States to provide us with all that we need.

This is not fair. It is not fair to us, to the Arabs, and to the United States. Primarily, we must depend on ourselves and assistance from other countries must be a secondary factor. We are not a poor state. Egypt's potentialities can make it a paradise. Our assets are more than our liabilities. The important thing is to exploit them judiciously and to recognize the citizen's right to the fruit of his endeavors and sweat.

There were channels for bringing in the Egyptian citizens' savings from abroad. These channels were the money exchangers. The former minister of economy closed down these channels, believing that Egyptians would transfer their savings through the banks. This did not take place. The Egyptian citizens savings were directed toward investment companies. Instead of encouraging these companies, an attempt was made to undermine their activities. This means that the government works against all the channels that enable Egyptians to transfer their savings and after doing this, the government complains that there is a scarcity of dollars on the market. These dollars do exist but they do not find their way to the banks of the public sector.

We also have the private sector that is capable of producing, exporting, constructing, and developing. However, the government does not assist it in this role and places obstacles on its road. If this sector succeeds in evading the government, it will face the communists and the Nasirites who will attack it, and incite the authorities against it. We have become specialists in stalking successful men. The entire world respects successful men, but we kill them.

There is also the question of freedom. We have succeeded in safeguarding the freedom of the press but not that of elections. This means that we have realized one aspect of freedom but some are trying to obstruct its most important aspects because the freedom of the citizen to choose his rulers is the first step of any free society. An elected parliament, which is chosen through free and honest elections, can also adopt the strongest and harshest decisions because it represents the actual will of the people. However, the fabricated parliaments always seek to curry the citizens favor at the expense of the public interests. Any attempt to forge elections is a crime and any attempt to boycott the elections is also a crime.

We need to encourage our own resources, and cut expenditures. We also need a real pricing of commodities and services, and true freedom. If all this is achieved, production and export figures will double, and Arab and U.S. assistance will become the dessert and not the real meal.

/6662

CSO: 4500/76

PROMINENT JOURNALIST DISCUSSES GUILD ELECTIONS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Mar 87 p 12

[Article by Anis Mansur: "Positions"]

[Text] The Journalists' Union elections have not been of concern to anyone, and have not met with panic from anyone. They have passed calmly. It had been expected that they would manifest themselves as an example of a fire which breaks out and sweeps away all persons and principles and would be a sign of what would happen in the general elections in Egypt and in other elections. The journalists are the people most sensitive to intellectual currents, their hands are on the pulse of the street, the home, the mosque and the church, their ears are on the stations of the world and their eyes are on its news. Therefore, they would classify themselves rapidly on the day of the elections: with the government or against it, right or left.

However, contrary to all expectations, everything was quiet -- the discussions, the dialogues, the clashes, and the confrontation with all the journalists in their turn. They said everything and discussed all. The journalists rallied behind the people they supported, the discussions and confrontations were in loud tones, then everything calmed down.

The elections resulted in victory for Ibrahim Nafi', the former head of the union. They chose him for his calm and because he was well regarded by the people who had elected him previously. He performed obvious services for the union and the profession of the press. He can perform more services. Therefore he is a responsible man who is able to perform what he has promised.

Journalists were elected to the council of the union because of the personal characteristics they possess and their services to the members as well. Therefore, the journalists actually have chosen the people they respect and in whom they consider the public interest lies, and that has been sound, clear thinking.

The Journalists' Union elections are of special importance. They are an example of what is decided by the people most sensitive to events and the direction of the wind, and the most sensitive to everything that is connected to power, government and the fingers and eyes of the government. The calm

has come as proof of clarity of vision, freedom of opinion and total freedom from all pressure of any kind.

Therefore, the newspaper election events did not appear at the top of the first page and in red headlines in Egypt or in the Arab world. That is a lofty example of the way the elections must be, God willing.

11887

CSO: 4504/162

BRIEFS

TEACHERS TO KUWAIT--Dr Fathi Surur, the minister of education, and Mr Anwar 'Abdallah al-Nuri, the Kuwaiti minister of education, have discussed supplying Kuwaiti schools with Egyptian teachers and facilitating the Kuwaiti committees' task of making personal contracts with male and female teachers who are not Ministry of Education employees. The two ministers will sign an agreement for technical cooperation between the two countries and support for relations between educational institutions in them today. Dr Fathi Surur made a visit to some nurseries in Kuwait yesterday and observed teaching methods there. He also visited Kuwait University, which has six theoretical and scientific faculties, inspected the computer center at the university and became apprised of the services it performs in the area of education. He held discussions with Dr 'Abd-al-Muhsin 'Abd-al-Razzaq, the director of the university, and his aides, on some scientific matters related to Kuwait University and the Egyptian universities. The Kuwaiti minister accompanied Dr Surur on his visit to the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and a review was made of the achievements of the training institute in the course 5 years and the development of research on agriculture, fish cultivation, environmental and earth sciences, air pollution and research on foodstuffs. He also visited the model unit, the petroleum research laboratory, the economics department, the Kuwait national museum and the house of antiquities. Today he will visit the minister of justice and the museum. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Mar 87 p 5] :

11887

CSO: 4504/162

AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEW ON NORTH AFRICA POLICY, TERRORISM

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 26 Jan 87 pp 56-58

[Interview with Mu'mmar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya, with Randa Takiedine; date and place not given]

[Text] The Libyan colonel wants to form one country out of the Western Sahara and the Canary Islands, which he considers to be part of the same geographic region, where Spain has no rights. These are the comments he made to Middle East expert Randa Takiedine, which are being published exclusively by CAMBIO 16.

[Question] Now that the Uxda treaty has been broken--it united Libya and Morocco in 1984 and was renounced by King Hussan in 1986--do you plan to actively support the Polisario Front once again?

[Answer] Our position is clear: We do not want for Polisario an independent state which gathers together only a few thousand inhabitants. In fact, we are supporting the Polisario as a revolutionary movement in the Arab Maghreb; this is being done independently of the relations we have with Morocco. What is important to me is to see the birth in the region of a force capable of destroying artificial monarchic feudalism and U.S. power.

In this regard, I think it will be necessary for the Polisario and the Nationalist Party of the Canary Islands to set up a unified political party. In passing, I should like to say that this is the first time I have made such a proposal. In effect, the Western Sahara and the Canary Islands are part of the same geographic region. They should combine their efforts to defeat Spanish imperialism and merge into a single, real state.

[Question] Does Algeria support this suggestion?

[Answer] It will be necessary for it to do so.

[Question] Would the new state be linked with Morocco?

[Answer] No, it would be an independent state. After all, the inhabitants of the Canary Islands are immigrants who came from the Sahara, and we should not forget that Spain has no right to these islands.

[Question] It is said that when you signed the Uxda unification treaty with King Hassan you promised to halt all aid to the Polisario.

[Answer] No, I never renounced the idea of a referendum by the Saharan people. I even stated in front of the Arab-African Union the right of that people to self-determination. As regards the Uxda treaty, I expressed some doubts about its duration. How could it be possible for a reactionary and feudal sovereign to create a durable union with Libya? The contradictions between our two systems are too great. What is more, I told King Hassan: "The United States and Israel will not permit you to operate in that manner with me." He replied that he was the sole master of his decisions. Now it is clear that was not true. They ordered him to end this union, and he broke his commitments to Libya.

[Question] Was King Hassan right in receiving Shimon Peres in Morocco?

[Answer] By receiving Shimon Peres, the King wanted to please the Americans and Israelis. This visit proves that my analysis is correct: Hassan is applying the policy dictated to him by Washington. I see in this event a defeat and a betrayal which will lead to his ruin.

[Question] When the United States bombed your country in April 1986, it justified its action by accusing you of actively supporting terrorism in the world. What have you got to say about this subject?

[Answer] Washington is carrying out a disinformation campaign to deceive the American people and world public opinion. In reality, the purpose of the attack was to strike a blow at the Arab nation as a whole to force it to abandon the struggle for the liberation of Palestine. Essentially what was involved was an effort to bring about the annihilation of the man who is leading this fight. The United States believes that by ridding itself of me it will put an end to the Arab revolution. It is profoundly mistaken, and its attack has produced an effect just the opposite of what it expected: The attack did nothing more than increase the anger of the Middle East; the Arab revolutionary movements are determined to show themselves to be even more intransigent.

[Question] You did not answer my question. Are there terrorist training camps in Libya? To prove your good faith, would you accept having an international investigating commission sent to your country?

[Answer] If there is to be an investigation, it should first start in the United States, Great Britain, and the other Western countries. We are sure that is where they will find terrorist training camps which are operating against Libya, Syria, Algeria, and all the progressive Arab countries. We have proof of their existence; on the other hand, those who accuse us have no proof. We have even arrested terrorists who were working against us. That is why we know with exactitude that the Americans and British are organizing subversive operations in Syria. Hundreds of innocent persons have been killed in those countries because of acts of violence committed by terrorists trained in the Federal Republic of Germany and Great Britain.

[Question] Iran and Syria, which are very hostile to the United States, have not suffered any direct attacks. In your opinion, to what may we attribute this relative American moderation with respect to those countries? Why hit Tripoli and not Tehran or Damascus?

[Answer] With their attack, the Americans have experienced a serious military defeat, and they do not wish to repeat that failure. If they had been successful in Libya, they would not have hesitated in attacking Syria or Iran next. In any event, they have announced that in the future they will resort to other methods, particularly bombings. That is a method they have already used against me. In a recent publication, did not the former chief of French intelligence reveal that an effort had been made to assassinate me?

[Question] What do you think about the recent wave of bombings in Paris which have been attributed to the Abdallah family?

[Answer] I have expressed my amazement at those incidents. I do not understand the reasons for that sudden violence in France. Is it linked with internal or external causes? What has France done to merit such a fate, I ask myself? On the other hand, it is not certain that those held responsible are really the guilty parties.

[Question] How do you explain the fact that the United States, which has a lot of enemies, has not been subjected to violence similar to that which has hit France?

[Answer] It is very simple: The United States protects itself by using Europe as a shield. That means, either Europe lacks clairvoyance or is defeated and impotent. In the next world war, it will be on the front line of the Soviet-American conflict: It will receive the first Soviet nuclear missile. In my opinion, a confrontation between Western Europe and the United States is inevitable, because Washington's obsessive fear of Communist military power will end up being taken for what it really is: A great lie and a betrayal whose objective is to push the old continent into a conflict with the USSR.

I am convinced that Western and Eastern Europe could live in peace and renounce their missiles if they were to repudiate the pernicious influence of Washington.

[Question] In October, Great Britain broke its diplomatic relations with Syria, which was accused of being involved in a terrorist plot that planned to blow up an El Al airplane in flight. The United States also recalled its ambassador to Syria, while France refused to take similar action. How do you interpret those different decisions?

[Answer] England is totally dependent upon the United States, unlike what is happening in France: Paris has proved its autonomy by refusing to permit the American bombers which were on their way to attack Libya to pass through its air space. It is clear that there is an alliance between the Atlantist Americans and British directed against the Arab nation, against Islam, against

Arab semitism. This is a racist policy. Could you explain to me why the bilateral problems between Great Britain and Syria are any concern of the United States? Why has the White House recalled its ambassador to Syria because of its solidarity with London? When Damascus reestablished relations with the United States, did it by any chance link this accord to its relations with Great Britain?

[Question] What is your opinion of Soviet policy in the Middle East?

[Answer] It is certainly more rational than that of Washington. However, the recent changes in the attitude of the Soviets toward the United States are not positive. Face-to-face with Gorbachev, who is like a dove with his proposals for peace and conciliation, Reagan's United States confirms his image as an eagle constantly threatening war and military escalation.

[Question] Has the USSR sent military experts to Libya?

[Answer] Of course, we have Soviet experts and weapons.

[Question] Why then did they not react when the United States attacked Libya?

[Answer] What could they do? In any case, they did not fail in their obligation. We continue to have faith in Soviet policy toward us.

[Question] Do you expect that there will be a reconciliation between Libya and Tunisia in the near future?

[Answer] I have never understood the reason for the break in relations. In the economic sector, our two countries are complementary; however, the problem is that our political systems are profoundly different. We are an authentic Jamahiriya (a state of the masses) and not an American suburb. We had to restrict ourselves to economic cooperation, since the political incompatibilities were foreseeable. Now, Tunisia has broken all its ties with Libya.

[Question] If the situation in Tunisia worsens, would you intervene?

[Answer] No. We would only intervene if the Tunisian people asked us to.

[Question] Every time you attempted to bring about unity in the Maghreb your efforts failed. How do you explain that?

[Answer] Doubtless we did not follow the proper path. What is more, I do not feel that all my efforts were in vain. At least I have the effect of generating a spirit of union in the Maghreb, which up until now has been isolated from the rest of the Arab world.

[Question] Is it true that many Palestinians are returning to Lebanon?

[Answer] Yes. The resistance must install itself there once again. This is clear-cut proof of the failure of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, whose purpose was to expel the Palestinians from the country.

[Question] Should the PLO be considered the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people?

[Answer] Arafat represents no one else but himself. The PLO continues to be a military vanguard; however, it fails to act like a liberation organization...

[Question] How is it possible for you, a champion of Arabism, to support a non-Arab country--Iran--against an Arab country--Iraq?

[Answer] What is important in this conflict is that a revolutionary force is confronting a nonrevolutionary force. Countries which are supporting Iraq against Iran, such as Jordan, Egypt, and the Gulf countries, are all reactionary countries. That said, I sincerely desire an end to the war.

[Question] What solution do you propose to end the Lebanese crisis?

[Answer] Any settlement should be effectuated within the framework of a republic in which Muslims and Christians live together in peace. I am opposed to slogans about an Islamic republic or the idea of cantons or small states. Those concepts terrify the Arab Christians and push them into alliances with the enemy. Those who preach to me about an Islamic republic are mercenaries who give Israel the justification to attack Lebanon.

[Question] What role does Libya propose to play in Chad?

[Answer] For Chad I wish peace and unity; however, under no pretext will I accept the installation of an enemy regime. We will not tolerate those who want to destabilize us. The French presence in Chad is imperialist and small. What France has to do is abandon its military bases throughout the African continent.

8143/9738

CSO: 3548/52

EDITORIAL ON NEGATIVE COMPROMISE FOR JOINING EEC

Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 15 Feb 87 p 3

[Editorial by Dr 'Abd-al-'Ati al-Wadghiri: "What Will Morocco Lose in Europe's Common Market?"]

[Text] There is no doubt that when Spain and Portugal officially joined the European Common Market, Morocco's economy and commerce suffered quite a setback. Although other Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean countries were hurt by Spain's and Portugal's association with the EEC, it is certain that Morocco's loss was greater and more severe because of the volume and quality of Morocco's agricultural production. That is why Morocco has for some time been pursuing a policy designed to make Common Market countries aware of this threatening danger. Where pressure had to be applied, Morocco applied it; but it went beyond that. Morocco thought it might surprise the EEC with something that its members would find inconceivable. It submitted a request to join the EEC so it can protect its national production and economy.

No one will debate the need to find a solution that will keep the country out of danger. Nor will anyone debate the need to negotiate with the EEC and use all means to apply pressure to its members. No one will debate the fact that joining the Common Market is one solution that may be considered. What is to be feared, however, is that the consequences of joining the Common Market may prove to be more harmful than beneficial.

It is an accepted fact that current EEC members are a homogeneous group of countries that have many things in common. These countries have more things in common than they have differences. They are compatible with each other geographically, historically, genealogically, culturally, educationally, socially and religiously. With such a broad base of ties and compatibility, the idea of establishing a united Europe or European unity came into being and was given serious thought. Implementation of that idea is now proceeding in steps and stages. The Common Market plan is only one in a sequence of stages that was followed by and led to the most important of these stages: the plan for a European Parliament. Today, the European Parliament is playing an active role in building that unity. Besides, EEC countries have treaties and covenants, and they have a uniform policy in many, though not all, sectors and areas. EEC countries have a common policy especially in the areas of foreign policy, the media, culture and defense. This is evident in meetings that ministers and officials of each sector hold every day to coordinate activities in each sector.

All this means that any new country that wishes to join the EEC will have to link its interests with those of Europe. It will have to make radical adjustments to coexist with EEC countries and live in harmony with them so as not to strike a tone of discord amidst this harmonious group. In other words, such a country would have to assume a European character. It will have to adapt and modify itself to fit that mold. If Morocco wishes to become a member of the EEC, it will have to yield to the restrictions, conditions, pledges and covenants that EEC countries yield to. It will have to introduce liberal concepts into its foreign affairs, information, cultural and defense policies to make them compatible with the policy that EEC countries pursue and agree upon. Otherwise, Morocco would find itself in constant conflict and disagreement with those countries. Chief among those changes that Morocco would be asked to make will be those pertaining to many of its positions on Middle East questions and problems. And that could create severe difficulties for Morocco with its fellow Arabs and Muslims.

What Morocco may be asked to do from a cultural standpoint may be harder and more difficult. Morocco will find that it will have to pursue a cultural policy that would establish an affinity between its way of thinking, its language, its education and social customs and those of European nations. This is one of the conditions of compatibility for EEC countries. If Morocco were to carry out that condition, it would find itself after some time isolated from its Arab, Islamic and African environment. It would lose its cultural identity and it would be turning its back to its past. Herein lies the real danger: it is a trap in which we do not wish to fall. Suffice it to recall Turkey's example and what happened to it when designs were made early this century to turn Turkey into a European country. We do not want to lose our identity and our character in return for a solution to an economic problem.

Sometimes it seems that the changes and other matters one has been noticing throughout the past months do indicate that we have in fact started thinking about making the cultural adjustments that we are required to make provided we are accepted in the European Economic Community. Signs of such change are beginning to appear in the official media as usage of the French language is restored and the number of Arabic programs reduced. There are rumors that Arabizing education will be countermanded after progress had been made in that regard.

I do not wish to thrust myself into the tortuous task of looking for solutions to our economic problems. There are specialists and experts who can do that. But what is indisputable and must not be ignored by economists as they look for solutions is this: it is presumed that any solution to any problem of any kind must not lead to other problems for which there are no solutions. Nor should those solutions these economists find cause us to relinquish sacred rights and gains which should not be squandered at any cost. An imbalance in the economy can be repaired and remedied, but nothing can replace or make up for the loss of one's cultural identity. Adjusting one's identity and effacing one's character to preserve a certain economic standard do not constitute a proper solution. One must not sacrifice what is constant and durable in return for what is incidental and ephemeral. It is the opposite that is required: that is, we have to adjust the economy, the policy and the circumstances of life so we can hold on to that

valuable and irreplaceable quality. We heard solutions and suggestions in this regard that we believe could be quite useful and beneficial.

We heard, for example, a suggestion that we find new markets for our agricultural products to make up for the European market totally or partially. It was suggested that we make radical changes in the agricultural products we produce so that these products would not remain at the mercy of the European market. It was suggested that a common Arab market be established by means of which the Arab economy could become integrated. Some people called for expediting the application of a plan to unite the Great Arab Maghreb because such a unity would resolve numerous problems that countries of the Arab Maghreb have, chief among which are the economic problems. Other solutions and suggestions could be considered without infringing upon Morocco's identity and allowing it to succumb to the West in a manner that would cut us off from our historical roots and the cultural climate without which we could not survive. Compromising Morocco's identity would alienate us from the ties and commitments we share with the Arab Islamic nation and place our common goals out of reach. The Arab Islamic nation is our nation, and we do not want a replacement for it. "Your religion is but one religion, and I am your only Lord: therefore fear Me" [al-Mu'minun: 52]. God Almighty spoke the truth.

8592

CSO: 4504/165

VICE-CHAIRMAN DJELLAL EL-SAID INTERVIEWED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Mar 87 p 11

[Interview with Djellal El-Said, vice-chairman of Parliament by Zuhur al-Siba'i: "Mr El-Said Tells AL-MAJALLAH, 'Ceuta and Melilla Are Our Primary Concern; Economic Conditions Affected the Performance of Our Parliament';" date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] There is an ongoing debate in the political arena in Morocco about parliament's performance. The opposition thinks that parliament's performance is not compatible with aspirations for firmly establishing the democratic experience in the country. To that the government responds by saying that the opposition exaggerates. Zuhur al-Siba'i interviewed Dr Djellal El-Said, vice-chairman of Parliament, who has been recently assuming the chairman's functions. Mr El-Said presides over parliament's sessions and follows up on parliamentary activities. Ms al-Siba'i interviewed him about the subject.

[Question] Opposition circles are saying that instead of having parliament enact laws, government frequently resorts to regulatory measures. This means that parliament is not carrying out its legislative functions as it should. What do you have to say about that?

[Answer] I can affirm that parliament carries out all its legislative functions even when government resorts to using the so-called regulatory measures. The constitution defines parliament's functions clearly, and it gives government the right to take specific measures even if these measures come under parliament's powers. However, as stipulated by the constitution, government may use that power only between two sessions of parliament. The constitution authorizes parliament to give government the right to issue and enact some laws provided a parliamentary committee, which concerns itself with the import of these measures, approves of them and provided these laws are presented once again to parliament for ratification in the following session.

[Question] But when did government use this authority?

[Answer] As has been noticed, the government has practiced restraint in this regard. It has not yet resorted to this emergency constitutional power except in special cases. That is what happened in the past legislative year regarding the rent law. The government used that power then after numerous bills on the

subject were introduced by parliamentary factions, and debates on those bills continued for a long time in special committee, but no agreement was reached.

[Question] Although the constitution gives members of parliament the right to propose bills for legislation, what we've noticed is that so far parliament has concentrated on bills that are submitted by government. Why is that?

[Answer] This is something that happens in all parliamentary assemblies. A legislative initiative is usually a government initiative. Although absolute authority preserves for parliament the right to study bills or proposed laws, parliamentary work places priority on bills submitted by the government. I don't need to say that there are several reasons why the executive agency itself assumes the initiative of submitting draft laws; these are reasons that everyone can understand. Government has the means which enable it to be in a position to take that initiative. Most importantly it has authorities on the law who can be found in various departments. In addition, its executive activities give it the opportunity to propose draft laws to facilitate administrative work and cover all variables which could create or bring executive activity to a standstill. I hope that in the future parliament will have qualified personnel to help members carry out their legislative duties and assume the initiative in proposing draft laws.

[Question] At the beginning of parliament's last session there was a heated discussion about the fact that government is ignoring parliament. Some people went so far as to affirm that there was a profound dispute between government and parliament. How true is that?

[Answer] I personally have no knowledge of a dispute between government and parliament. The opposition, however has several times brought up the subject of waiting for the government's answers to various oral and written questions that had been submitted by members of parliament. But this is normal for the opposition. I say quite objectively that I hope all government agencies will meet their responsibilities, even though the number of those questions is growing continuously and answers are provided at the proper time.

[Question] It has been noticed that some sessions of parliament yielded a modest amount of legislation. It has also been noticed that that has created somewhat of a vacuum in parliament's performance. How do you explain that?

[Answer] Legislative activity too is affected by the various difficulties which the country encounters. Morocco has experienced the harshest drought, and it was affected by the world economic crisis and by the high price of oil. At the same time Morocco had to bear all the costs of defending its territorial unity. If it is self-evident that implementing the requirements of all legislative provisions costs money, one can then understand the reason why parliament's legislative activity has been reduced. However, I can predict a fruitful legislative period because this year the first difficulties have been eased domestically and abroad and there are early signs that we will have a good agricultural season under the satisfactory results of the corrective financial policy which our country has been pursuing. During the 3 remaining years of this parliament many bills and draft laws will be proposed.

[Question] Although all factions of the opposition in parliament called for an emergency session of parliament to look into the question of Ceuta and Melilla, that session has not been convened. Can you explain that?

[Answer] It is true that some parliamentary factions expressed the wish to convene an emergency session of parliament on Ceuta and Melilla, since that question is on the minds of all citizens. However, no decision was made on the subject. This means that nothing was said about postponing an emergency session. However, contacts are now underway to present the case to the Foreign Relations and Cooperation Committee and to a public session of parliament. At any rate, all political tendencies have expressed concern. And every day they express concern for the subject as well as absolute support for the Moroccan monarch's initiative suggesting "a retreat" during which Morocco and Spain would have the time to think and consider the future of both cities in the context of completing our country's territorial unity.

[Question] Members of foreign parliaments in the various continents have exchanged numerous visits with members of Morocco's parliament. And yet parliament's relations with Arab parliaments are quite limited if not non-existent. What is the reason for that?

[Answer] The role played by Morocco in the Arab and Islamic worlds is known to everyone. Supporting that role and strengthening Morocco's relations with its fellow Arabs are top concerns for Morocco's parliament. We do not deny that the exchange of visits between Arab parliaments is less than what the Arab nations hope to have, but contacts between our parliament and Arab parliaments do exist and they are intense. And yet I do urge the need to exchange visits with parliamentary delegations because such visits strengthen cooperation and support and establish relations between Arab nations. Such visits provide greater and more important opportunities.

8592

CSO: 4504/165

DEVELOPMENT FOR NORTHERN PROVINCES

Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 15 Feb 87 p 1

[Article: "Boosting Economy of the North Expected with Liberation of Ceuta and Melilla; 1987 Development Projects for Northern Provinces Worth 270 Billion Centimes; Mr Mohamed Sa'd al-'Alami Says It Is Necessary To Lay Down a Comprehensive Plan To Boost Economy of Northern Provinces"]

[Text] The Arab Maghreb news Agency announced 2 days ago that His Highness King Hassan II will visit the northern provinces next September.

In light of that news report which Moroccans in the northern part of the kingdom were delighted to hear, we read the news report about the meeting which the minister of interior and information held with workers in the provinces of Tangier, Tetouan, Larache, Chechaouene, Al Hoceima and Nador. The minister also met with chairmen of regional and municipal councils and the heads of independent districts and rural communes. He also met with heads of the chambers of agriculture, industry, trade and conventional industry in the aforementioned provinces.

The subject of the meeting was a discussion of the local communes' projects to determine their share of funds from proceeds of the added value tax.

At the beginning of that meeting the minister of interior made it clear that 30 percent of proceeds from the added value tax would be allocated to local communes to implement royal instructions. The ministry has in fact appropriated the necessary funds so that local communes can benefit from them starting this year.

The communes submitted their development projects, and these came to 12,000 projects nationwide. The total financial cost for these projects amounted to 3,100 billion centimes. One thousand of these projects were submitted by communes in the northern provinces, and the total financial cost for those projects is estimated to be about 270 billion centimes.

The minister indicated that the offices of the central government would start distributing the local communes' authorized shares of funds from the proceeds of the added value tax on the basis of objective measurements and standards following guidelines proposed by members of the Office for the Third National Competition between local communes. These guidelines were also proposed at a

previous meeting for members of the office of Parliament's Committee on the Interior.

The minister informed those who were at the meeting that commune leaders will be directly responsible for disbursing these appropriations in their communes. He told them that communes in the northern areas will be the first to which this experiment will be applied.

For a Comprehensive Plan To Revive the North

It is worth noting that Mr Mohamed Sa'd al-'Alami, chairman of the Municipal Council for Chechaouene and member of the Istiqlal Team for Unity and Equality in Parliament emphasized during that meeting the need for laying down a comprehensive plan to boost the economy of northern provinces which is to be expected with the liberation of Ceuta, Melilla and other pockets. Morocco's northern districts are considered to be the country's strategic front and its gateway to and from the European continent.

Means of Transportation for Communes Subsidized

Mr al-Muffadil al-Yamlabi, chairman of the Municipal Council in Larache called for the prompt approval of plans to provide equipment by the Commune's Equipment Fund. He called for transportation subsidies for local communes.

Money Allocated To Contribute to the Defense of Territorial Unity

At the end of the meeting participants in that meeting sent a cable to His Highness the king asking him to set aside a sum of money in 1987 from the local communes' authorized share of funds from proceeds of the added value tax. This sum of money can be used to strengthen defense for our territorial unity and shore up our national gains. This was done on the occasion of a meeting that was held for members of the Office of the Third National Competition between local communes and members of the office of Parliament's Committee on the Interior.

Participants at the meeting also affirmed their absolute support for the king's suggestion to have a joint retreat for Morocco and Spain at which the future of Ceuta, Melilla and other pockets would be considered. This would be part of the effort to complete Morocco's territorial unity.

20 Billion Pounds Annually To Revive the North

It is worth noting that in February 1984 when the king welcomed representatives of the residents of northern provinces and a group of new proteges in Casablanca, His Highness announced that he would allocate 20 billion centimes annually to these provinces to implement employment projects and help the class of farmers.

8592

CSO: 4504/165

BRIEFS

JAPANESE OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING--A new milestone has been achieved in the co-operation between Morocco and Japan--the official visit made recently by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, to Tokyo has achieved important results. In this framework, the Japanese oil company will start oil exploitation operations offshore in the Essaouira basin, in accordance with an agreement that was signed this morning under the chairmanship of the minister of energy and mines between the national office for oil exploration and investments and the Japanese national oil company. [Excerpt] [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 87 LD] /6662

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP ACCORD--Rabat, Mar 19 (MAP)--The chairmen of the Soviet-Moroccan and the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Associations Georgiy Veselov and Mohamed el Fasi signed here Wednesday a cooperation agreement between the two associations. In a statement to the press Veselov said the accord aims at strengthening relations and the exchange of delegations to enable the associations' members better know the two countries' cultural, economic, scientific and technological specificities. Veselov, who is also education minister of the Federative Republic of Russia, said his association envisages to increase the number of scholarships extended to Moroccan students to carry on scientific and technological studies in Soviet universities. Veselov expressed satisfaction at the results recorded by the 1984 agreement between the two associations adding that Moroccan Days will be held next fall in the USSR. The two associations are sponsoring at the Soviet Cultural Center in Rabat an exhibition of photographs. The exhibition inaugurated Wednesday will wind up at the end of March. The photographs reflect the two associations activities the cooperation and friendship ties between Morocco and the USSR as well as some aspects of Soviet handicraft. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 19 Mar 87 LD] /6662

NETHERLANDS CULTURAL COOPERATION--Rabat, Mar 21 (MAP)--The ratification instruments of the Moroccan-Dutch cultural cooperation agreement concluded in February 1983 were exchanged here Friday at a meeting between visiting Dutch Foreign Minister van den Broek and his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Filali. The agreement, coming into effect next May 1st, aims at promoting cooperation between the two countries' institutions dealing with education, culture, and scientific research. In pursuance of the agreement, scholarships will be granted to the two countries' nationals to promote scientific research and teachers' training. Moroccan teachers will be called to teach Islamic culture

and Arabic to Moroccan families children living in the Netherlands. The Dutch foreign minister was also received by Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki with whom he discussed the positive prospects of Moroccan-Dutch cooperation. Talks also covered the situation prevailing in North-West Africa. [Excerpts] [Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 21 Mar 87 LD] /6662

SAUDI AID FOR DAM--Rabat, 21 Mar (MAP)--Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada received in Rabat yesterday 'Abdallah al-Saghir, deputy president director general of the Saudi Development Fund, who attended the inauguration of the construction of the Ait Youb dam, situated in the Sebou region, which was supervised by his majesty King Hassan II. The talks covered the various aspects of cooperation between the Saudi Development Fund and Morocco and the desire of both countries to reinforce them in accordance with the aspirations of the two fraternal countries and their two kings, his majesty King Hassan II and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. It is worth mentioning that the Saudi Development Fund participates in the financing of the Ait Youb Dam project. Morocco and the Saudi Development Fund signed a financial agreement on 17 July 1986 whereby the fund put 143 million Saudi riyals at Morocco's disposal as its contribution to the execution of this project. [Text] [Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Mar 87 LD] /6662

AIR LINK WITH QATAR--Rabat, 21 Mar (MAP)--A new agreement for the establishment of an air link between Morocco and Qatar was signed in Rabat yesterday by Moroccan Minister of Transportation Mohamed Bouamoud, and Jasim Yusuf Jamal, Qatari ambassador to Rabat. [Excerpt] [Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Mar 87 LD] /6662

FIGURES ON FLUORINE PRODUCTION--Mr Mohamed Fettah, minister of energy and mines visited the fluorine mine in El Hammame in Khemisset Province. That mine, which is being exploited by the Mines Contracting Company, is located approximately 45 kilometers southwest of Meknes. Research completed in the sixties made it possible to start exploitation of this mine in 1974. At first it was estimated that the mine could be exploited for a period of 10 years and that reserves would amount to 1.5 million tons. Due to exploration efforts that were made, known reserves rose to 2.8 million tons between 1974 and 1986. The aim of the plan to expand exploitation of the mine is to increase future production by more than 20 percent so that annual production of concentrated fluorine would amount to 84,000 tons, at an estimated cost of 30 million dirhams. That plan was approved by the Ministry of Energy in the context of the Investment Law. The 1986 expansion of the mine made the record production figure of 83,000 tons of fluorine possible; and the figure for the mine's business was 74 million dirhams. [Text] [Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 14 Feb 87 p 3] 8592

CSO: 4504/165

SOUTHERN POLITICAL DISPUTES REPORTED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7-13 Mar 87 p 13

[Article by Fath-al-Rahman Mahjub: "Dismissals and Disputes Among the Southern Parties, Politicians' Disputes Impede Solutions in the South"]

[Text] The difficult birth of the Interim Council for the South of the Sudan has revealed the magnitude of the crisis through which the Southerners themselves are living. Furthermore, the state of internecine fighting and conflict that has been reached will in turn have an impact on efforts being made to quiet conditions in the Sudanese South and to bridge the gap that has sprung up between the North and South because of this situation. Among the things that have happened is the formation of the new council to administer the South until the conclusion of the National Constitutional Convention, which is expected to settle many pending political problems. With the convention scheduled to be convened this March (all indications, however, point to its possible postponement), it has taken more than 8 months to create an Interim Council for the South in order to perform a function which, it is now assumed, will last only a few weeks.

Efforts for reconciliation between leading Southern figures have continued since the formation of Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government in May of last year, in order to reach a formula that would guarantee the South a civilian government in keeping with the new democratic situation. The military governors appointed by the Transitional Military Council after the April 1985 uprising therefore continued to administer their districts until the interim civilian administration was formed in February of this year. At the end of last year, these efforts had halted before an insurmountable obstacle: the formula for an administrative framework for the Sudanese South, given the existing reality of the division of the South into three regions, in accordance with a decree issued by former President Ja'far Numayri in 1983. Some Southerners considered this decree a violation of the Addis Ababa agreement and the subsequent Southern Provinces Self-Government Act of 1972. Others considered it the fruit of their struggle to be liberated from the domination of government in the Sudanese South by some of the larger tribes.

After consultations, maneuvers, and confrontations, leading Southern figures reached something like a compromise involving recognition of the three Southern regions as a fait accompli, along with the creation of an

administrative and political solution expressing the cohesiveness of the South and its existence as a unit distinct from the Northern regions. After more than one delay to give the Southerners an opportunity for further discussion and agreement, the government accordingly proceeded to announce the new council after consultation with leading Southern figures, and, as the government announced, with their agreement. The reaction, however, was more tumultuous; the Southern bloc split once again, and part of it considered the government to have broken its promises to it.

One of the reasons for the latest tempest appears to be the fact that there were objections to certain appointments from certain Southern circles. While this could be categorized as a conflict not involving principles and not centering on fundamentals of government, it led to a reopening of the fundamental points over which the dispute had been waged previously, especially by those who had been calling for the formation of a government for the South on the basis of its being a single entity, rather than three regions. This is the group that has boycotted the new Administrative Council and has lost the round this time.

Some people have tried to justify the claims of the opponents of dividing the South into three regions by saying that preserving the South as a unified region at the present time would make it easier to settle the relation between the North and the South through the Constitutional Convention, with the South having a position of unity and power. However, the other Southern parties have opposed such a unity and held fast to administrative division, based on a rejection of the dominance of any Southern sector over any other Southern sector. All the efforts have failed to create an agreement over specific principles that would represent at least a minimal agreement by the Southerners as a distinct group within Sudanese territory and postponement of consideration of the formula for government until the holding of the Constitutional Convention.

In light of the existence of a movement that continues to fight the elected central government even after the departure of the Numayri regime, the cards of the game have changed completely. The Southern political theatre will turn upside down if this movement decides to take part in the Constitutional Convention and if the Southern political parties continue to be divided as they now are. However, the possibility of participation by John Garang and his group in the Constitutional Convention appears remote. Even if they participated, they would inevitably strengthen the position of the wing opposing the new administration in the South, especially if one considers the foundations of the structure of Sudanese political activity, which rests on tribal and regional loyalties in the South and on loyalties that are sectarian, tribal, regional, and sometimes class-related, ideological, and to some extent occupational in the North. Based on the general shape of Garang's movement and of Southern political groupings, it appears that movement's tribal, regional, and ideological bases (despite its claim to be a pan-Sudanese movement) mesh with the tribal, regional, and ideological bases of opponents of the 3-region formula for the South and of the new formation of the Council for the South, which has found support from the majority of members of the smaller Southern tribes and from the masses in the Equatoria Region generally.

Between the two positions, AL-TADAMUN has sensed that officials in the new Southern administration are beginning to engage themselves with confronting the large backlog of results of the civil war and of the famine that killed thousands in the South while Southern politicians were arguing about the form of government and were unable to agree on emergency programs of action to save the South from what it was facing. Perhaps this was one of the reasons that caused some Southern ministers and parliamentary representatives to leave their parties, which were opposing the formula for creating the Administrative Council.

It is to be noted that the composition of the Interim Council for the South includes one independent, who is the council president and belongs to a major tribe, the Shilluk (the largest tribe of the South is the Dinka, followed by the Nuer and the Shilluk), and that tribes and parties have been distributed so as to form a balance. For the governorship of the Upper Nile Region, which borders on Ethiopia and on the positions from which Garang's forces are deployed, a local figure was chosen, someone from one of the large, fighting tribes (the Nuer) and who is a member of the Sudanese Federal Party.

[Box]

Southerners in the State Apparatus

--State Council:

Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik (his party, the Sudan African People's Congress, SAPCO, considers him expelled from the party).

--Council of Ministers:

Joshua Dei Wal, minister of local government and a member of the People's Federal Party, considered to be closely connected with the forces of the Anya Nya 2, which is fighting against the forces of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, led by dissident Colonel John Garang.

Serafino Wani, minister of transportation and communications and a member of the People's Progressive Party, which is considered to be in harmony with itself and with the government as long as the Equatoria Region, within which the party originated, is not subject to the domination of a regional government.

Walter Kunijok, minister of labor and civil service and a member of the Sudanese African Congress, SAC. The leadership of his party, which opposed the recent formation of an interim civilian administration for the South of the Sudan, has announced that it will make a decision regarding the minister's remaining in this post in the government.

Aldo Ajo [Deng], minister of irrigation and a member of the South Sudanese Political Association, which rejected the recent formation of an administration for the South and asked its minister to withdraw; when he did not do so out of procedural considerations, the party announced his expulsion.

--Interim Council for the South of the Sudan:

Matthew Ubur Ayang, an independent from the Shilluk tribe, who holds the office of council chairman.

Peter Gatkuoth Gwal, who was elected deputy chairman of the council, but declined because, as he said, he respects himself and respects his party. He belongs to the South Sudanese Political Association, which rejects the council's formation. He has previously held many offices and is a member of the Nuer tribe in Upper Nile.

Andrew Wieu Ryak, member of the council and president of the Sudan African National Union, SANU. He is from the Dinka tribe in Upper Nile.

Father George Lokwan, member of the council and a member of SAPCO. He belongs to the Toposa tribe in Equatoria.

Sapana Jambo, member of the council and a member of the People's Progressive Party. He belongs to the Moru tribe in Equatoria.

Gabriel Yual, member of the council and president of the Sudanese People's Federal Party. He belongs to the Nuer tribe in Upper Nile.

--Southern Regional Governors:

William Ajal Deng, governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Region; a member of the South Sudanese Political Association, he refused to submit to his party's boycott of the new appointments and was expelled by the party. He is from the Dinka tribe in Bahr al-Ghazal.

Peter Cirillo, governor of Equatoria Region; a member of the People's Progressive Party, he held the post of military governor of the region before the announcement of the new administration. He is from the Bari tribe in Equatoria Region.

Manasseh Majok, governor of Upper Nile Region and a member of the Sudanese People's Federal party. He is from the Nuer tribe in Upper Nile.

--Deputy Regional Governors:

Darius Beshir, a member of the Ummah Party from the Fertit tribes in Bahr al-Ghazal.

Morris Lawiya, president of SAPCO and a member of the Katwa tribe in Equatoria Region.

Isaac Wol Lual, a member of SANU from the Dinka tribe in Upper Nile.

12937

CSO: 4504/158

AL-MAHDI'S WIFE COMMENTS ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Feb 87 p 11.

[Interview with Sarah Fadil Mahmud by Amir Ghanim: "Future of Sudanese-Iranian Relations is Bright and Splendid"; in Tehran, date not specified]

[Text] Sarah Fadil Mahmud, wife of Sudan's prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, recently visited the republic at the invitation of the Islamic government. Her visit coincided with the Islamic revolution's 8th anniversary celebrations and this was a good opportunity for her to witness up close the realities of the Islamic revolution and its accomplishments after 8 years of victory.

KAYHAN AL-'ARABI met with her in Tehran to talk about various subjects: Sudan, its future and its relations with Iran. To start with, at our request, Mrs Sarah gave a brief biography of herself, saying:

My name is Sarah Fadil Mahmud, member of the general secretariat of the Ummah Party and member of its politburo and head of the Islamic Awakening Philanthropic Society which is a charitable organization concerned with women issues. I am also member of the administrative office of the Sudanese Heritage Revival Society, a cultural organization, and a member of the executive office of the Ansar Affairs Agency-Women's Branch. This is an organization that spreads the Islamic call and teaches religion to rural women. I am also a member in several administrative committees of educational institutions such as al-Ahfad University for Women. I obtained a BA degree from the American Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, and an MA in sociology and anthropology from New York University.

Against this list of posts, the following question had to be asked:

[Question] Are you a homemaker as well?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] Then how do you reconcile your work in all these fields with your duties as a homemaker?

[Answer] I have been fortunate enough to set a pace for myself that reconciles the two. I do not claim to shoulder all the burdens of housekeeping all by myself. I have help in this area, but I always make sure that my children do their schoolwork and I attend to my husband's needs. I got used to working 19 hours a day, a way of life I have followed for a very long time.

[Question] You are visiting Iran for the first time. What kind of feeling do you get when you see the realities of the revolution which is celebrating the anniversary of its great victory?

[Answer] First, I would like to express my thanks for giving me the opportunity to visit the Islamic Republic. The fact is I feel at home here and have not felt at all strange. I have come to a safe place where Islam is practiced and all hearts are turned to God Almighty. I have also seen for myself that allegations about wrongdoings in this country are totally false. I have found Iran to be a peaceful country despite the state of war it is experiencing. I have also found a people full of faith. Mothers, wives and families of martyrs speak of martyrdom as though it were a wedding or a joyous occasion and this is an indication of the deep faith that martyrs are with their Lord.

[Question] No doubt Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Tehran has opened new horizons for the development of fraternal relations between Iran and Sudan. How do you perceive the future of such relations?

[Answer] I can expect nothing but a blossoming from this visit whose first fruits will be witnessed soon when groups of Iranian men and women will grace us with a visit to Sudan and we will send similar groups here to gain experience in the various social and construction fields through the universities and revolutionary institutions.

[Question] Women in every country play a specific role in the political arena that varies according to the different systems, laws and social situations. How important is the role of the Sudanese woman in the political arena?

[Answer] The political role of women in Sudan is highly significant, especially during election time. In the previous elections, women's involvement in political affairs was about 60 percent of the country's female population. Besides elections, women play a remarkable and tangible role in other areas, albeit less significant than expected because the 60 percent of women who vote should participate in legislative and executive agencies at a higher rate than we see today. We in the Ummah Party, being aware of the Sudanese people's situation, when the government asked us to offer our perception of how elections should be run in Sudan, we suggested separate polls for women, about 20 polls altogether, especially, as you know, Sudan has special polls for university graduates and it had been proposed to set up special ones for labor. We believed that special polls should be set up for women, but they, the women, rejected our proposal, thus denying them fair representation in the Constituent Assembly and hence in government legislative and executive bodies. In the Ummah Party, however, we include women in all party establishments. For example, the party's secretariat here is

represented by a woman. This office has 5 members, 4 men and 1 woman. In the politburo, women are represented by 5 members and we are asking for more.

[Question] There are differences between the Ummah Party and the Islamic Front. What are their nature and roots?

[Answer] Ever since the Muslim Brotherhood came to Sudan, we worked with them in total harmony because they call for Islam as we do. This went on until the formation of the anti-Numayri National Front that staged the 1976 uprising under the leadership of Muhammad Nur Sa'd. But, when in 1983 al-Numayri claimed to have enforced his laws which he called the Islamic shari'ah, we parted ways because we vehemently opposed those laws and had a minor disagreement when we, as an anti-regime front comprised of the Ummah Party, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Democratic Union Party, made peace with al-Numayri. We became reconciled with the regime at its own initiative after it saw how strong the front was in the 1976 uprising.

Following the conciliation, al-Numayri violated all the promises he had made to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. At this point the opposition began to falter and its back was broken by its support of the Camp David Accords. We pulled out of the national conciliation and returned to opposition while the Democratic Union Party and the Muslim Brotherhood held to their positions. This is how we parted ways but our difference was over points of view only. The thing that drew us apart was what al-Numayri called the application of the Islamic shari'ah which we viewed as a frivolous game al-Numayri was playing to mutilate the bright face of the shari'ah in order to tighten his grip on the people and add yet another scourge to their backs. As you know, al-Numayri enforced the bounds and not the Islamic system in its entirety. Islamic bounds cannot be taken in abstract and applied in a society without the rest of the religious duties and principles. No counsel, no freedom, no justice. We viewed this as another scourge he wanted to use against the Sudanese people, so we denounced this action, saying that this had nothing to do with God's religion and we could not sanction such actions. That is why he threw all the men, headed by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in jail and I was forbidden to return to Sudan, spending all this time in exile in Britain. We continued our political efforts and initiatives to unite the opposition abroad by holding seminars and conferences and mailing out various pamphlets exposing the surrogate al-Numayri regime. We used to get all our information from Sudan through various means and we published it in the Islamic world.

Once again I go back to our disagreement with the Islamic Front. It began ever since that time and when the blessed Rajab uprising broke out in Sudan, the Muslim Brotherhood tried, in the name of the Islamic Front, to join the uprising forces because they stayed on al-Numayri's side until the last moment.

[Question] Are you still at odds or are there signs of rapprochement?

[Answer] I sincerely hope to God that rapprochement will take place because unification is what we need most in Sudan at the present time since we are going through a critical period in our history that requires the efforts of all the people.

[Question] Does the Islamic Front only include the Muslim Brotherhood or are there other movements and currents allied with it within the Front?

[Answer] The Islamic Front, as far as I know, includes the Muslim Brotherhood itself. It has a habit of changing its name at every stage of Sudan's history. They used to call themselves the Charter Front, then changed it to another name. The important thing is that the Front now includes the Muslim Brotherhood with a very small number of Sufi creeds.

[Question] There is a lot of talk nowadays about constitutional amendments in Sudan. What kind of amendments are they and will they make the government's job easier?

[Answer] The amendments the Sudanese government plans to introduce are very insignificant and will not affect the essence of the constitution.

As you know, dear brother, all government institutions and ministries are swarming with the "May caretakers" left behind by the former regime and the government has a duty to purge the civil service of such people. However, the transitional government failed to do that and their removal remains a basic condition which a legitimate government can only meet under the law because the law protects everyone.

One of these amendments pertains to this matter and the other one is to give the government the right to legislate temporary laws in the absence of the constituent assembly. These are the amendments the government intends to institute.

[Question] What kind of progress has the government made in this regard in the face of the opposition it is facing from some political circles in Sudan?

[Answer] The amendments have been approved by the cabinet and a few days ago were sent to the constituent assembly for ratification.

[Question] It is noted that the Sudanese media, TV particularly, is still working contrary to the shari'ah and holds negative positions toward the Islamic Republic contrary to those held by officials and to the steadily-growing relations between the two countries. Why is that?

[Answer] You have put your finger on the real problem of introducing constitutional amendments because in all government positions you find those who hold the power working against the government. That is why we have to purge these agencies and remove all pro-Numayri elements and the caretakers of his toppled regime. Here is a good article demonstrating the need for the constitutional amendments.

The Sudanese media, as you noted, not only black out Islamic Republic news, but often try to black out Sudanese government news.

[Question] But the Islamic Front says that those dominating sensitive positions and working against government instructions and the Islamic shari'ah

are people appointed after the uprising and have nothing to do with the former regime but are Ba'thists and communists appointed after the uprising?

[Answer] A number of them may have been appointed during the transitional period, but I assure you that most of the officials and media masters, in radio and TV particularly, are from the Islamic Front. There are some communist elements and there may be some Ba'thist elements, but the officials and leaders in these positions are from the Islamic Front.

[Question] Your party has opposed what al-Numayri called the application of the shari'ah because what was actually applied were the bounds without Islamization at the other levels. What has the incumbent government done to Islamize society as a whole land does it have future plans in this regard?

[Answer] Yes, the incumbent government, ever since it assumed power, has formed ad hoc committees to study all the academic curricula at all levels and to incorporate Islam into them. Moreover, the government has brought the Religious Affairs Agency under the Ministry of Education as an independent entity under the ministry's supervision so that it may be utilized in all the academic curricula. We do not want a religious education separated from the rest of the curricula. Furthermore, the government has set up institutions staffed by theologians, legists and shari'ah jurisprudence experts to legislate laws in accordance with God's Book and the Sunna of His Prophet. This, as you know, cannot be done overnight because it is a complex and involved matter. People have been engaging in un-Islamic practices for a long time now and we in Sudan face another problem which is that a large segment of our population is non-Muslim and when we introduce Islamic legislation, we must take their circumstances into consideration and must guarantee their rights, assuring them that we in Islam will not treat them as second-class citizens. We must have their involvement in what we do or else our work would be incomplete.

12502

CSO: 4504/156

ISLAMIC FRONT MEMBER INTERVIEWED

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Feb 87 p 6

[Interview with Mrs Lubabah al-Fadl: "Federal Solution is Best for Problem of The South"; in Tehran, date not specified]

[Text] During the Islamic revolution anniversary celebrations, delegations from numerous Islamic countries visited Tehran.

Mrs Lubabah al-Fadl was a member of the Sudanese delegation. She is a member of the capital's Shura Council of the Islamic Front led by Mr Hasan al-Turabi. She works within the Islamic Call Organization whose mission is to spread the Islamic call on the African continent.

We met with her and asked that our interview focus on the Sudanese domestic scene, specifically on the Front and its relations with the government. But she insisted that she was not in Tehran as a representative of the Front and could not speak for it. We finally agreed on a minimum, that she answer our questions and we state that she spoke about and not for the Front. Thereupon, the following interview took place:

[Question] What is the position of the Islamic Front on the Sudanese political arena?

[Answer] The Front has its distinctive position and is opposed to the government.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because it advocates a totally universal Islamic course in all areas and demands that law be drawn from the Koran and the Sunna.

With regard to politics, the rule and the country's administration, the front demands a federal rule for the South and the rest of the provinces.

[Question] And the current government's programs do not include this?

[Answer] I do not think so.

[Question] But the government is barely a year old and it may apply this in the future.

[Answer] They say they will apply the shari'ah in the future after study and debate.

[Question] And if the shari'ah is applied, will the Islamic Front give up its opposition?

[Answer] This is something left to circumstances after the Front assesses the government's position on the Islamic religion in its entirety from the political, economic, legal, literary and artistic points of view. If the front deems this matter in keeping with the Koran and the Sunna, the Shura Council will meet to decide whether or not to support the government. I do not think that the front will oppose the government if it believed that it is going in a purely Islamic direction.

[Question] The de facto government opposed the superficial and spurious application of the shari'ah as proclaimed by al-Numayri on grounds that it was not universal and intrinsic. Does this not mean that the government will apply the shari'ah in its proper form?

[Answer] In my opinion, the application of the shari'ah during the al-Numayri regime was proper. A Muslim must not interfere in the intent of others, but must assess the situation. Laws must be perceived as Islamic or un-Islamic. Our opinion in this regard is that the laws that were applied were not all un-Islamic, for they included Islamic ones such as God's divine ordinances like theft, adultery and the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and the statutes as well. It cannot be said that it is not intrinsic as long as it is stated in the constitution that this law was drawn from the Koran and the Sunna, while it used to be stated that it was taken from English law. It is not my duty to question al-Numayri's intention, but to go by the laws that are put before me.

[Question] But Islam is not just divine ordinances. Indeed, the application of the divine ordinances requires the propagation of Islam at all levels. Did al-Numayri apply Islam in its universal concept?

[Answer] We in the Islamic Front believe that Islam is an education and a culture before being a divine ordinance. Therefore, during our college days and before the Front was formed, Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi used to urge us as students and mothers to educate and enlighten the people in Islam and to urge that it not be separated from politics and the state. As for the divine ordinances, they are the last resort to be used against those who reject education and enlightenment. This is our attitude and we did not legislate these laws with al-Numayri, but we supported what is Islamic as an expression of our delight in changing the law from a positive one into an Islamic one.

Our course is education and enlightenment. This Islamic style of dress we learned from the Islamic Front. As for the parties currently ruling, we used to cheer them as the nation's hope, but we did not hear any of them tell us to wear the veil or adhere to Islam and so forth.

[Question] Did al-Numayri adhere to and call for that so that you would enter into an alliance with him?

[Answer] The Islamic Front did not enter into an alliance with al-Numayri. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was the one who allied himself with al-Numayri because the opposition was comprised of the two coalition parties and the current Islamic Front. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was the one who made peace by himself when he went from Britain to Port Sudan to forge a conciliation on his own.

[Question] Was that without the approval of the rest of the opposition?

[Answer] Absolutely.

[Question] But Dr al-Turabi joined the government and filled an official position?

[Answer] Following the conciliation and al-Numayri's inclination toward peace. "And if they incline to peace, incline thou also to it." A conciliation was reached between al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and al-Numayri, after which al-Sadiq disagreed with al-Numayri over the division of power and got out of the conciliation. Dr Hasan al-Turabi consulted with al-Numayri, asking him what he wanted.

[Question] He agreed to the conciliation then?

[Answer] He agreed on condition that he be given the freedom to call for Islam and to educate the people in it. This is what Dr al-Turabi set out to do because many of the members of the Islamic tendency had been killed during the national opposition at the telephone office and in the airport incident, thus reducing the membership to a handful. Therefore, al-Turabi embarked upon concluding a peace with al-Numayri similar to the al-Hadibiyah one the Prophet concluded to enable him to spread the call. This is what gave the Islamic Front a stock of loyal elements calling for Islam.

[Question] When exactly did your disagreement with the government begin?

[Answer] When Islam was put seriously in force as laws without education and enlightenment, we pledged ourselves to undertake the other part al-Numayri failed to put forth. America, however, did not like this development, so Bush sent a message to al-Numayri asking him to remove the Islamists from the courts and not to follow a purely Islamic direction. Hence, Dr al-Turabi and all the Islamists were put in jail and we remained at the end of the al-Numayri regime in prison. During that time the uprising broke out and the current coalition of the two parties formed with all the leftists, Ba'thists, communists and Nasirists a grouping they called the National Grouping. All throughout our history not once did we sit with the leftist parties, neither the Ba'thists nor the communists. This has been manifested in our mottos for the first cause of their disagreement is their alliance with the communists, the Ba'thists and the Nasirists, and the second cause, that we said that the application of the shari'ah, as proclaimed by al-Numayri, was partly wrong and

partly right, but they did not recognize at all, not even the divine ordinance.

[Question] But they claim that al-Numayri's application of the shari'ah was a deception.

[Answer] It was not a deception at all. Even if his aim was to gain popularity, this means that he submitted to the people's will because we tried to Islamize the people via demonstrations and lectures, something the political parties failed to do. We worked for the Islamization of society and we impressed on al-Numayri that that was the voice of the people. We used to shout in our demonstrations during the al-Numayri "this is the voice of the people and this people is Muslim." We applied pressure on him until he responded to the voice of the people and, for the first time in Sudan's history, the statutes were changed from Anglo-Saxon to Islamic. These parties failed to do this. They were in power before then and had a prime minister, but he did not rule by Islam. They promised us in their party platforms to do that, but when they assumed power they failed to enforce Islam and have not enforced it to date. Following the reactionary uprising, they announced the awakening path, but we have not seen in their TV or radio programs anything to substantiate that.

[Question] The Sudanese government acknowledges this and justifies it by the fact that al-Numayri aides still control sensitive positions in the city, particularly in the media.

[Answer] I disagree. Al-Numayri elements do not control the media, radio and TV in particular. The media is controlled by the Ba'thists and communists, as evidenced by Sudan TV hosting the Arab Lawyers Union, giving them the opportunity to talk about human rights when they have no respect for the human being. These are not al-Numayri aides. They hold daily interviews with Ba'th members and broadcast cheap movies and songs that are contrary to Islamic morality. TV and radio officials were appointed after the uprising with the approval of the minister of information. They belong to the two ruling parties, so how could there be any al-Numayri aides.

[Question] How do you view the constitutional amendments the government plans to introduce?

[Answer] In my opinion, some of these amendments are moving the government toward dictatorship.

[Question] How is that?

[Answer] The interim constitution provides that the judiciary remain independent. The amendments include a change in this article whereby the prime minister would have the power to interfere in the affairs of the judiciary.

[Question] Here again, the government justifies these amendments as giving it the power to replace some of those entrenched in sensitive agencies while the interim constitution supports such people.

[Answer] No, the law provides that Sudanese citizens shall not be treated unjustly. Al-Numayri did not have a party, but rather a small number of family members. The law says no citizen shall be treated unjustly unless he works against the constitution, the law or the government.

[Question] But you have mentioned that those entrenched in sensitive agencies are working against Islam and the Front opposes them?

[Answer] Those directing the media are not the official employees of the ministry. Not at all. They come from outside the ministry and produce all these offensive programs.

[Question] Who opens the way for them?

[Answer] The government, of course.

[Question] You mean Ministry of Information officials?

[Answer] The government has a pact with these people called the National Grouping Pact or the Pact for the Defense of Democracy. In the face of any resistance, they argue that it is in violation of the pact. A Ba'thist is free to offer any program he pleases and the only opposition comes from us. As for the two ruling parties, they are the allies of the communists and the Ba'thists with whom they hold secret meetings. During elections, the Ba'thist withdrew in favor of the candidates of these two parties.

[Question] Does the Islamic Front have a future program?

[Answer] Yes. A while ago the National Islamic Front drew up the Sudan Charter, reviewing the problems the enemies of Islam deem as impeding Islam's application of federal rule, the concept of the Islamic nation, the way Islam should be applied and a definition of the rights of non-Muslims in Sudan. Dr al-Turabi presented this charter in which he praised al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. It is a great accomplishment put forth for the first time.

[Question] Are there no efforts to bring the government and the opposition closer together?

[Answer] There are at present endeavors by both sides in this regard and we support anyone able to bring Muslims closer together.

[Question] How do you think the problem of south Sudan can be solved?

[Answer] The question of the South was devised by colonialism and we believe that federal rule is the best solution to this problem. We cannot impose Islam on them by force. Let them enjoy federal rule, then we can spread Islam in south Sudan through the Islamic Call Organization.

12502

CSO: 4504/156

BRIEFS

PALESTINIANS MAY DEMAND CITIZENSHIP--West Bank Palestinians may soon demand Israeli citizenship, a leading Palestinian intellectual said last night in a rare forum that brought together a government minister and pro-PLO speakers from the territories. Bir Zeit Prof Sari Nusseibeh said the time will soon be at hand when the growing integration of the territories with Israel will prompt a dramatic shift in Palestinian strategy, based on a demand for citizenship and the vote within the Israeli state. Nusseibeh, Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme and Palestinian editor Ziad Abu Zayyad appeared alongside Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur of the Alignment at a panel discussion held in Jerusalem. The forum was one of a number of activities held to mark the fourth anniversary of the murder of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig. Nusseibeh said the Palestinians' "instinctive" shift from outright rejection of Israel to exploitation of its social, economic and legal resources is already evident. Tsur stressed the importance of seeking interim agreements and pursuing talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team. "We need a policy to generate disintegration," added Tsur, referring to his concerns over the growing dependence of the West Bank's economy and society on Israel. "...If we don't encourage this change, the transformation of the Israeli character and the territories' dependence on Israel will be such that there will be no return," Tsur added. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Feb 87 p 2] /9317

AL-QUDS INTERNATIONAL EDITION--Occupied Jerusalem (R)--The East Jerusalem Palestinian daily Al Quds launched an international edition this week in a bid to compete on Western Europe's growing Arabic-language newspaper market. Al Quds, the biggest selling Palestinian newspaper, claims a circulation of between 36,000 and 40,000. Politically it gives cautious support to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but it is less ideological than other East Jerusalem papers, including more human interest, leisure and sports reports. The newspaper obtained permission from the Israeli occupation authorities to export the edition, which is subject to rigorous censorship. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 87 p 2] /9317

LAND CONFISCATION STATISTICS REPORTED--Amman (Petra)--The Israeli authorities have confiscated 2,781,724 dunums of land in the occupied Arab territories since the occupation began in 1967 and the number of Israeli colonies built on this land now stands at 195, according to a report issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. The report said that 35 settlements or

colonies have been built in the Jerusalem alone with the rest built in the areas of Ramallah, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley and Gaza. The report said that nearly 63,800 Jewish settlers are now being housed in three colonies and the Israelis plan to build 12,000 housing units for newcomers. Last month alone the Israelis confiscated 17,105 dunums of land in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Jewish settlers carried out acts of aggression and intimidation against the indigenous population, resulting in the injury of seven Arabs and damage to cars and other property, the report pointed out. It said that nearly 2,000 olive trees owned by Arabs have been uprooted during the past month. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 87 p 3] /9317

CSO: 4400/178

JORDAN

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN--Amman, 18 Mar (PETRA)--Muhammad 'Afanah was sworn in as Jordan's ambassador to Sudan at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today before His Majesty King Husayn. [Excerpt] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 18 Mar 87 JN] /9599

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--Amman (PETRA)--His Majesty King Husayn on Wednesday received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan; Ludmik Janczyszyn of Poland, Poul Bent Soendergaard of Denmark, and Patrick Mack of Ireland. [Excerpt] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Mar 87 p 1 JN] /9599

GNP REGISTERS INCREASE--Amman (J.t.)--Jordan's gross national product (GNP) rose to JD 1,917.4 million in 1986, registering an increase of JD 68.2 million over the 1985 figures, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday. [Excerpt] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 87 p 1 JN] /9599

CSO: 4400/179

BRIEFS

OUTGOING SPANISH ENVOY--Damascus, 18 Mar (SANA)--Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Spanish Ambassador in Damascus Felipe de la Morena Calvet this morning on the end of his tenure. [Excerpt] [Damascus SANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 18 Mar 87 JN] /9599

BRAZILIAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received the new Brazilian ambassador to Syria, Ney Moraes de Mello Mattos, and received a copy of his credentials. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest. [Text] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Mar 87 JN] /9599

CSO: 4400/179

NATION'S UNIVERSAL HOUSING PROGRAM REVIEWED

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by 'Abd-al-Munsif Shukr: "1987, International Housing for the Homeless Year: The Government's Efforts have Provided Housing for Everyone and Solved the Problem"]

[Text] In 1987, the world will be celebrating international housing for the homeless year. An official source in the Ministry of Public Works and Housing asserted that the efforts officials have made during the era of the federation have provided suitable housing for citizens and people coming from abroad and have greatly limited the problem of the unavailability of housing the world is facing nowadays. Meanwhile, officials in the United Nations, in letters the ministry has received, have asserted that there is no housing for 20 percent of the world's inhabitants and that they are hoping that governments, bodies and individuals will increase their efforts to solve the problem.

Four years ago the United Nations decided to consider 1987 an international year for housing for the homeless. During this period, the United Nations center for human settlements continued to work in cooperation with national governments, competent organizations and individuals in all areas of the world. At the beginning of international housing of the homeless year, Mr Javier Perez De Cuellar, the secretary general of the United Nations, directed a statement received by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in which it was said, "One out of every five inhabitants of the world lacks acceptable housing, and a number of millions lack any kind of housing. It has been decided to set aside 1987 as an international year in which efforts will be exerted for the purpose of providing housing to people who do not have it. That without a doubt will be a great undertaking to improve the conditions of these people to whom the United Nations has devoted itself. The problem of housing, if it is not solved, will constitute a threat at the present time and in the long range to the welfare of peoples and the possibilities for progress for the entire international community. Therefore, I am directing an appeal to governments to give essential priority to the provision of housing and basic services to these people who lack them. I would also like to invite all the agencies of the United Nations and financial organizations to support the governments' efforts in this regard and I call

on non-governmental organizations, the private sector, official agencies and the whole international community to mobilize aid and support for housing programs in the local and domestic contexts."

Dr Irkut Ramashindran, the executive director of the United Nations center for human settlements, also directed a statement on this occasion in which it was stated "The general objective of international housing of the homeless year can be summarized in the direction of attention to the problem of the dispossessed. The special objective is to take effective measures to provide housing conditions at least for some people who do not have housing in the current year and to create effective means for carrying out this objective in a reasonable time."

An official source in the Ministry of Public Works and Housing stated, "The government of the emirates is participating with the world in its efforts in this international housing of the homeless year. However, the efforts the officials in the country have exerted during the era of the federation, in the federal context or in the local contexts in each emirate, have succeeded in providing housing for citizens and people coming from abroad alike, so that we can say that the emirates are not confronting a problem of housing for the homeless. There is hardly anyone who does not have housing in the emirates, especially citizens. Nonetheless, the government's efforts with regard to the improvement of the level of housing for citizens are continuing, in order that a better level of housing and services may be attained. In addition, the development, which covers all the facilities of the government, is also covering the area of housing, which means the continuation of efforts to build new housing in the effort to raise the level of specifications of housing and the utilities and services that are available for it."

The number of housing units which the Ministry of Public Works and Housing constructed in the years of the federation up to 1985 come to the following, 5,897 ordinary dwellings and 7,164 additions to existing dwellings, with the result that total housing units for citizens come to 13,061. The costs of these dwellings have come to 1,301,000,000 dirhams. The quality of the housing the ministry is constructing has developed by stages, in terms of increases in building area, the type of number of rooms and open spaces. The area has increased from about 120 square meters and now comes to 275 square meters. The number of rooms in dwellings with two bedrooms and the necessary facilities for them has increased and totals a number of rooms and greater open spaces, with the development of the necessary facilities. Thus, the cost of a single unit has increased from 85,000 dirhams in the past to about 235,000 dirhams at present.

In addition to what the federal government is doing, the local governments in the seven emirates are making great efforts in the area of providing housing for citizens and providing housing lands for people who want to build housing for themselves. The special office of his highness the president and the office of the ruler belonging to his highness the vice president and prime minister are offering valuable aid in the area of the provision of ordinary housing to citizens in all the emirates of the country.

DUBAYY HEALTH PROJECTS REVIEWED

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jan 86 p 4

[Article by Farid Wajdi: "Construction of 11 Sanitation Engineering Projects in Dubayy City; The Projects Began in 1982 and 1983 and Cost 241 Million Dirhams"]

[Text] The sanitation engineering (sewer) department of the municipality of Dubayy completed the construction of 11 projects at a 100 percent completion rate by the end of July, at total costs of about 241,136,690 dirhams.

This was stated in a report issued by the sewer department in the municipality, which pointed out that the projects which were carried out included the Za'bil sewer project, which was finally handed over last August, at total costs of about 8,817,000 dirhams, on which work began on 1 September 1982, and the project of expansions in the current sewer water treatment station, on which work began on 1 November 1982, with the period of project maintenance ending last March and a total cost of 10,467,000 dirhams.

These projects also included the main pump station and storage ponds costing 11.5 million dirhams, on which project work began in the middle of November 1983 and the period of maintenance ended last June, and the irrigation system for public parks and farms and road gardens in Dayrah and Dubayy onland. The costs of constructing the system in Dayrah onland came to 21,696,000 dirhams and the construction of the project ended last October. The construction of the system in Dubayy onland came to 39,465,603 dirhams, and that ended last October as well.

Construction of the project to bring the sewers to the Dubayy general police command was completed and the period of project maintenance ended at the end of last March at total costs of 1,514,000 dirhams. Work on the project began in July 1984 and the project was finally handed over in June 1986. In addition, there was the completion of the project for the al-Wasl street sewers at total costs of 6,579,000 dirhams. Work on the project began in July 1984 and the maintenance period ended in July 1986. There also were the sewers for the maternity hospital and Ustad al-Nasr at total costs of 3,894,000 dirhams. The maintenance period ended last December. Work on the project began in July 1984. In addition, there was the project of the Khalid Ibn al-

Walid street sewers at costs of 1.5 million dirhams. Construction of the project began in January 1985 and the period of maintenance ended in September 1985. There was the project for sewers and rainwater drainage southwest of Howr al-'Anz at costs of 63,587,000 dirhams; work began on the project in July 1983. During the construction of the project a change order was issued to the contractor to add some work to the project. There was the sewer, rainwater drainage and temporary treatment plant project northeast of Hawr al-'Anz at a cost of 72,169,000 dirhams. Work began on the project in July 1983. The municipality had issued a change order to the contractor to add some work to the project and its construction began at a cost of 2,989,000 dirhams last June. The execution of the order was completed before the end of the year before last, 1985.

11887

CSO: 4404/174

MAJOR ABU DHABI PROJECTS DURING YEAR REVIEWED

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Dec 86 p 4

[Article: "159 Projects Constructed in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 9 Months at a Cost of 2,605,600,000 Dirhams"]

[Text] The number of projects constructed in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the first 9 months of this year came to 159. Their final costs have come to 2,605,600,000 dirhams. This was stated in the report on followup of annual development program construction for the first 9 months of 1986 which the economic branch in the Abu Dhabi planning department had prepared.

The report stated that 37 of these projects, whose final costs came to about 1,004,400,000 dirhams, involved the works department. It pointed out that the most important projects carried out included the project to excavate a canal between Mina' Zayid and the Umm al-Nar canal at a cost of 367.4 million dirhams, the Abu Dhabi international airport project (basic structure) at a cost of 364.7 million dirhams, the Works Department building project at a cost of 63.3 million dirhams and the Umm al-Nar-Shihamah road project at a cost of 48.8 million dirhams.

The report stated that with respect to the Abu Dhabi municipality and city planning department, 33 projects were related to that, at a cost of 1,060,700,000 dirhams. Among the most important of its projects carried out was the project of the great mosque circle intersection tunnel at a cost of 194,800,000 dirhams, the project of the main building for the secretariat general of municipalities in Abu Dhabi at a cost of 190.6 million dirhams, the project of the inner circle overpass in Masfah at the new airport intersection, at a cost of 173.3 million dirhams, the project of the overpass of the intersection between Sa'd Ibn Tahnun Street and the airport road, at a cost of 101.5 million dirhams, and the project to plant trees on 2,700 hectares in various areas at a cost of 66.5 million dirhams.

Twenty-one projects costing 101.4 million dirhams involved the Department of Water and Power. The most important projects included that on the construction of control centers in al-Wathbah at a cost of 28 million dirhams and the expansion project in the al-Wajn station and diesel generators, at a cost of 12 million dirhams.

With respect to the department of the bureau of the representative of the ruler in the Eastern Province, 17 projects were connected to that at a cost of 162 million dirhams. The most important projects carried out included that of the poultry farm in al-Sadd at a cost of 100 million dirhams, the project to supply the top of Mount Hafit with water at a cost of 19 million dirhams, the projects for the new al-Jimi hospital central air conditioning machines in al-'Ayn at a cost of 15.6 million dirhams, and the project to plant trees on 460 hectares in al-Shubaysi and 400 hectares in al-Wajn, at a cost of 20.6 million dirhams.

Twenty-six projects costing 256.9 million dirhams involved the department of al-'Ayn municipality. The most important projects included that of the 1-11 circle overpass in al-'Ayn at a cost of 44.6 million dirhams and the Mount Hafit road project at a cost of 102 million dirhams.

Twenty-five projects were connected to the department of agriculture and livestock production in al-'Ayn at a cost of 20 million dirhams.

11887

CSO: 4404/174

ECONOMIC RESEARCH UNIT SURVEYS EXPANSION IN PLASTIC INDUSTRY

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Dec 86 p 16

[Article by Ibrahim Ahmad: "The Economic Research Branch in the Industrial Bank Asserts the Number of Plastic Factories in the Country Totalled 30 in 1985 As Compared with 8 in 1975"]

[Text] The number of plastic factories in the country rose to 30 in 1985, their total capital came to 140 million dirhams, their annual design capacity to 60,000 tons and their actual production to 45,000 tons, the equivalent of 75 percent of design capacity, with an increase of 150 percent over production in 1982, which was estimated at 18,000 tons. In addition, the number of people working in this sector came to 1,800.

The number of plastic factories in the country did not exceed eight in 1975, meaning that they have increased by 375 percent in 10 years.

This was pointed out by a study the economic research branch in the Industrial Bank of the Emirates is preparing on plastic materials industry in the United Arab Emirates as part of a comprehensive plan to study conditions of all industrial sectors in the country.

The preliminary data which the economic research branch obtained showed a similarity of output as far as most plastics are concerned, since this production has been concentrated on similar types such as commodities prepared for household consumption, plastic bags, plastic pipes used in building and construction, electrical connections and agricultural irrigation as well as readymade packages for use in certain local industries such as the dairy product and soft drink industry. The rise in local demand for manufactured plastic goods has led to the stabilization of prices in the relative sense in the last 4 years while the prices of exports have dropped due to the strong competition for the country's plastic production in foreign markets, specifically the markets of Gulf Cooperation Council member countries. In spite of that, the volume of exports in the period 1981-1985 doubled.

Total exports in 1985 came to about 7,860 tons, worth 40.74 million dirhams, while imports came to 78,000 tons worth 347 million dirhams and re-exports to 5,420 tons worth 26.8 million dirhams.

Exports in 1984 came to 7,260 tons worth 38.15 million dirhams, imports to 94,120 tons worth 421.11 million dirhams and re-exports to 8,130 tons worth 36.6 million dirhams.

In 1983, exports were 7,860 tons worth 57.67 million dirhams, imports 96,950 tons worth 458.81 million dirhams and re-exports 10,680 tons worth 57.75 million dirhams.

In 1982, exports came to 5,500 tons worth 46.75 million dirhams, imports to 80,470 tons worth 417.51 million dirhams and re-exports to 7,370 tons worth 30.95 million dirhams.

Exports in 1981 came to 4,120 tons worth 35.82 million dirhams and imports in the same year came to 75,570 tons worth 463.75 million dirhams and re-exports to 3,880 tons worth 26.84 million dirhams.

Export and import figures show that the country's markets still greatly depend on the outer world to meet their requirements for manufactured plastic goods, which requires the diversification of plastics production and the refusal to restrict that to the production of consumer goods, especially since a great process of evolving from the use of such traditional materials as iron, aluminum and wood to the use of plastic products is to be found in many modern industries.

11887
CSO: 4404/174

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

RELIGIOUS COOPERATION WITH BANGLADESH--His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Ahmad al-Khazarji, the minister of Islamic affairs and religious endowments, received Dr Rafiquddin Ahmed, director of the Islamic center for technical and vocational training of the Islamic conference organization in Bangladesh, who is currently visiting the country, in his office yesterday. During the meeting, which His Excellency Abu Sa'id Muhammad Kheirulinam, the Bangladesh ambassador to the country, attended, a review was made of the activity of the center, the services it provides and means for support and cooperation between the emirates and Bangladesh in various Islamic areas in general. [Text] [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 4 Jan 87] 11887

CSO: 4404/174

ARTICLE CALLS FOR PRICE, INFLATION CONTROLS

Ta'izz AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 86 p 8

[Article by Muhammad Husayn Shuja'-al-Din: "The Connection, the Equation, the Pretext, the Madness of Prices: For the Information of the Ministry of Economy, Supply and Trade"]

[Text] When people's ears are deaf and their hearts are mere coverings, it is out of the question to make them hear and more out of the question to make them understand one's rebuke, even if we borrow something distinguished, which has had effect and influence, from the eloquence of al-Mutanabbi, when he said,

"I am the one whose works the blind have looked at:

"The one who has made the chronically deaf hear his words."

There is a saying: If you hit water in order that it may be protected, you will not achieve that goal, or understand my intent. Water will not be protected by hitting it, and an exhortation or rebuke will not reach the person who has not felt the prick of a needle.

You will make yourself heard, if you call a living person, but the person you are calling has no life.

This is our situation with the transactions on the markets and the unremitting dealings. The government warns, condemns and takes measures so that people who are still alive may be reasonable, and perhaps may be stricken by them. In the evening, it is at their neighbors', and in the morning it is at their own homes. The papers and the radio stations give directives and criticize. The citizens curse the Supply [Department], revile the merchants and insist that no determination exists and that no competent body exists which might be concerned with the affairs of this inflation or with the escalation of it, its whim, the judgment of the people behind it and the challenge to everyone. There is no one who will expose the pretext or justification which has informed the mind, to the point of certainty, that plundering exists, and we are rising up against the people who claim that the others are plundering them, and reluctantly, as the expression has it, inevitably squeeze

children's necks, while the major figures still have the upper hand, in spite of the intelligence of the people who have witnessed, heard and given caution, or warning.

We have written, and this heated tone has prevailed in our spirits, which considered that the writing in the papers about inflation has been defamatory and has been committed against the peace and that these statements have been only for the fully blind, so that people's eyes would not follow up on the committers of violations. The purpose is to promote and spread the chance deeply to observe and study the plundering of people's hands and the severing of their joints and to provoke the inflammation of reactions against our sure, calm progression under the shadow of the tree of stability, on which poisonous winds will have no effect, no matter what direction they come from or what form they are tinged by. However, our brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, commander general of the armed forces and secretary general of the general people's conference, has directed the government to limit the voracity of inflation, which has escalated since 1981, and the government has carried out its responsibility toward the competent body, in order that it will be aware of its responsibility and limit this by the formula of the rates of price rises, so that things can revert to their commercial legality and so that, in order that the pretext may be subjected to the proper state of affairs, in view of the relative rise that has occurred, a gradual process may take place where the rise in the pretext and the rate of the increase of the value of the dollar with respect to imports, with the rise in the value of the dollar permitting the maximum degree of the deep-rooted pretext, takes place gradually. However, the matter has continued as a cause and gone further out of hand, because of the exploitation of the circumstances of change which existed in the Ministries of Supply and Trade and Economy. At a time when the ministry was arranging its affairs and its great burden, so that it could take charge of activities through proper management and a system which would be in effect without convulsions, our brother specialists who were taking the initiative considered themselves on an open holiday, organizing activity so that they could act through it, God willing.

Small things happened by coincidence, in their presence, which justified sitting down and reclining, it was said of them that they had become lax, and they had. Approving their silence means prolonging the manipulation and excess which are causing people pain.

We must shorten the discussion and present an equation with a modest table on consumer and primary goods -- how their prices have risen and gone beyond the bounds of madness and irresponsibility. We are making a presentation to the higher and lower bodies, with the purpose of seeking an explanation of the answers from the people who are concerned with the answers. We are presenting material in accordance with which they can act to effect a correction.

Examples of the Insane Increases

At the beginning of the year, a can of beans was 48 riyals; it now is 100.

A small can of sauce at the beginning of the year was 55 riyals, and today is 115.

A container of Nido milk at the beginning of the year was 55 riyals, and today is 130.

A can of Sirlac milk was 12 riyals at the beginning of the year and now comes to 35.

A bag of sugar at the beginning of the year was 110 riyals and today is 270.

A bag of flour at the beginning of the year was 110 riyals and today is 145.

A ton of iron at the beginning of the year was 2,700 and today is 6,800.

A sack of cement at the beginning of the year was 39 and today is 59.

A meter of brick was 2,000 at the beginning of the year and today is 7,000.

Shahi milk at the beginning of the year was 70 and today has come to 145.

A bottle of Canada [Dry] at the beginning of the year was 1 and today has become 5.

A container of real milk was 35 at the beginning of the year and today has become 72.

This is a simple sample of the rise in prices, a sample of basic consumer goods. There is an increase which might have astounded one when the price of the dollar was 7.50; the comparison has now exceeded 1,000 or 3,000 percent. If we accept for the sake of argument the rise in the price of the dollar, what is the rate that this rise merits? Although they say that that is the imported price, how can that be accepted? If we say and they say that that is a state of affairs that has been imposed, we are ignoring the existence of laws and bills which reject loathesome imposed things, especially in the era of stability which has empowered us all with the freedom to engage in permissible activities. If the virgin society seizes you with the desire to rely on silence, it will because of its genuineness and its faith in God and its government await the repression of everything which disrupts God's tolerant laws, provided that the objection is that we appeal to the form of the law on commerce in religion and dealings with respect to it. We look through the files of pretexts. When the value of the dollar was 7.5 riyals, a can of Nido milk was 18 riyals. What is the connection to its rise to 52, then 130? A ton of iron was 1,200 -- what is the connection to its rise to 1,700, then 6,800 riyals? We can measure all the foolhardy acts by this, including people who hoarded goods then sold them with the increase, under the pretext of supply and demand.

Let us return to a reasonable situation which will be dictated by the state of our country, which is in need of ongoing labor to recover from the wound of backwardness and the war of 8 years. The war of prices is more harmful and destructive. Our people need truthfulness in dealings with respect to everything, adherence to the spirit of belief which is fed up with inflation, and consciences, which are part of the elements of this soil, which the smokestacks of foreign malevolence have not polluted. There is no one among us who wants to destroy our home.

11887

CS0: 4404/104

REORGANIZATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPROVED

Ta'izz AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 86 p 1

[Article: "At Its Periodic Meeting: The Council of Ministers Approves Reorganization of the Higher Water Council and Transfers Rural Water Activities to Subordination to the Ministry of Electricity and Water"]

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its periodic meeting at 0900 hours yesterday morning under the chairmanship of our brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the prime minister and member of the permanent committee. After the council had reviewed the decrees of its previous session, it discussed the subjects listed in its agenda and the recommendations presented to it by the development council concerning the working papers the competent ministries had submitted on the problems of water, water sources and the recommendations of bodies for remedying these problems.

The council, after a detailed discussion, approved the reorganization of the higher water council under the chairmanship of our brother the prime minister, whereby the council will include our brothers the deputy prime minister and minister of development, the minister of public works, the minister of the interior, the minister of economy, finance and trade, the minister of oil and mineral resources, the minister of municipalities and housing, the minister of electricity and water, the secretary general of the federation of local councils for cooperative development and the secretary of the technical secretariat of the higher water council.

This organization has the goal of tying all planning issues and the numerous technical issues regarding the preservation of water and optimum water resource and use control to a single concerned body, which is the higher water council, the body which carries out studies and research and prepares statutes and legislation bearing on water.

The council also approved the transfer of rural water activities to subordination to the Ministry of Electricity and Water, to put an end to the existing overlap in areas of competence and unify the body responsible for carrying out water projects, whether these exist in the towns or the rural areas.

BRIEFS

WADI AL-JAWF LOAN AGREEMENT--The constituent people's assembly held its regular meeting yesterday morning under the chairmanship of our brother Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arshi, the vice president, chairman of the assembly and member of the permanent committee. At the meeting, it listened to the supplementary report presented by the plan and financial and economic affairs committee concerning the loan agreement concluded by our country and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance part of the total cost of the Wadi al-Jawf agricultural project. It discussed this in an incisive manner, as a result of which it approved it, as well as approving the recommendations which were aimed at eliminating the difficulties obstructing the use of agricultural resources through organization of the irrigation system and distribution and control of the water level in the current irrigation system belonging to the al-Kharid and al-Ghayl areas, as well as investigating the optimum crop cycle and introducing crops with better yields on the lands irrigated by Wadi al-Jawf water in the al-Kharid and al-Ghayl areas and designing more effective projects for supplying the people with water and also providing resources for training, agricultural guidance services and agricultural research to farmers in the project area. [Excerpt] [Ta'izz AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 86 p 1] 11887

DANISH ECONOMIC DELEGATION--The day before yesterday a Danish economic delegation arrived in Sanaa under the chairmanship of Fleming Mark, chairman of the trade section in the Danish Foreign Ministry, on a visit to our country which will take a number of days. In the course of this it will meet with a number of officials in the private and public sectors to discuss various aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the economic and commercial areas. Our brother Hasan Dallal, director general of the economic department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a number of officials and the honorary consul of the Danish government in Sanaa were present to receive the delegation. [Text] [Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Nov 86 p 2] 11887

YEMENI-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP WEEK--Yesterday morning the Soviet delegation taking part in the activities of Yemeni-Soviet friendship week under the chairmanship of Mr Kibsha Kabayev, the minister of irrigation and land reclamation in the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, arrived at the town of Hajjah. There the delegation will offer cultural and artistic activities in the cultural center in the town of Hajjah. Our brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Barti,

governor of Hajjah Province, and a number of officials in the governorate were at the reception of the delegation. During a short meeting in the governorate, our brother the governor greeted the head and members of the delegation and pointed out that the ties which link our country to the Soviet Union are solid and advanced. For his part, the chairman of the Soviet delegation expressed his thanks for the generosity and warmth of the reception, expressing his great amazement at the agricultural terraces he witnessed and saying that they reflected the extent of the Yemenis' ability to reduce difficulties and mobilize high mountains for agriculture and various means of living. He stated that that affirmed the depth of Yemeni civilization over a long period of time. After that, the delegation, accompanied by our brother the governor of the province, made an informational visit to the Mubin area and the agricultural nursery belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture. This primarily includes coffee trees, whose annual production comes to more than 40,000 seedlings, and 8,000 other citrus and fruit trees. During the visit, the delegation became acquainted with the agricultural resurgence the region is witnessing, as well as historic and archaeological features. [Text] [Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Nov 86 p 2] 11887

CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH INDIA--An executive program for cultural cooperation between our country and the Republic of India for the next 3 years was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Education building. The program includes cooperation between the two countries in the areas of education, youth, sports, the media, tourist activity and health. Signing the program, on behalf of our country, was our brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Ja'ifi, the minister of education and member of the permanent committee, and, for the Indian side, his excellency Mr K. B. Balakrishnan, the Republic of India's ambassador to Sanaa. The two parties expressed their happiness at the signing of this program, which will open up new scope for the development of relations of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Attending the signing of the program were our brothers 'Abd Rabbih Jaradah, the deputy minister of education, and 'Abdallah al-Wahhabi, the director general of the technical and cultural department in the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Nov 86 p 2] 11887

CSO: 4404/104

IRAN

MUSAVI, RAFIQDUST DISCUSS UNDERGROUND SHELTERS, OTHER ISSUES

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Tehran, IRNA.

According to a report by the public relations office of the prime minister's office, on the morning of the blessed birthday of her holiness Zahra, more than 300 of the Friday and congregational imams of Tehran Province met and spoke with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

In this session, in which Messers Sana'i and Tavassoli, representatives of the imam in the administration office of the Friday imams, were also present, first Hojjat ol-Eslam Adab, the contact of the prime minister with the Friday imams and the clergy, presented a report on the visit of the prime minister's delegation to 9 provinces and 25 bombed cities and the high spirits of the generous people of these cities and praised the martyrdom of dozens of the children of the Friday imams.

Prime Minister Musavi then offered congratulations on the birthday of her holiness Zahra and women's day and explained the recent conspiracy of Saddam to stop the attack on cities, upon the recommendation of the hypocrites who provided the main directives for Saddam in attacking the cities, as the result of the brave resistance of the people of our cities vis-a-vis these attacks.

He said: Attacking the cities was the greatest weapon that the superpowers placed at the disposal of Saddam.

However, after seeing the magnificent march on 22 Bahman [11 February] and the general mobilization of our nation to build shelters, they have realized that these attacks have had the reverse effect; they have increased the general mobilization against the miserable enemy.

The prime minister, referring to the 10 days of civil defense, said: With the halt in the attacks of the enemy on the cities, the motivation for building shelters must not be lax. We must continue with all of our ability, because this, too, is necessary for our defense, and is comparable to having a complex air defense and weapons. Considering that it is rather low in cost and dependence and yields a higher preventive power, it is necessary and useful. For this reason, the government has decided that every year, even during peace

time, part of the construction materials will be used for building shelters and trenches.

The prime minister added: Today, the totality of the movement of the government and our resistant people had created a strong position with regard to the air bombings by the enemy and the building of shelters and these continuing attacks have made the oppressor despair.

Referring to the heroism in the economic movement of the country, Mr Musavi said: This heroism is equivalent to that of our combatants on the fronts. Today, the total debt of the Third World countries to oppressive countries is more than \$1 trillion, of which our country has no share.

Today in our country, a movement of epic proportions has been created in the economic area, and, as we did not stretch out a begging hand to the global colonialists even in the harshest of economic conditions, neither will we stretch out a hand to any of the colonialists in the area of civil defense, building shelters or strengthening air defense. We will leave their hearts scarred with the desire to dominate the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Explaining the details of the U.S. political scandal to once again establish influence in Iran, the prime minister said: The documents that have been published by the faithful forces in Lebanon since the capture of "William Buckley," the CIA agent, indicate that the political scandal of the United States is much more deeply rooted than this, and the Americans are trying to put an end to it by deceiving public opinion inside and outside the United States.

In the same connection Mr Musavi referred to the role of George Bush, the U.S. vice president, in the illegal visit of MacFarlane to Iran and said: U.S. political factions are trying to cover up his role in this political scandal.

In conclusion, the prime minister considered the communication of the constructive criticism of the people by the clerics to the officials to have resulted in the continuation of the sincere movement of the government servants and the strengthening of the executive system of the country.

In the course of this meeting, Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust, the minister of the Guards Corps, informed the Friday and congregational imams of Tehran Province of the self-sacrifice of the powerful combatants of Islam in the magnificent Karbal-5 operation and, explaining the point that today the operational region of Mahi Lake and Shalamcheh has been turned into a slaughtering place for the mercenary Ba'thist army of Iraq, he described this area as the jugular vein of Saddam and said: Our able and powerful combatants have their hands on Saddam's jugular vein with the support of the army artillery, and the enemy is taking its last breath in this area.

Also explaining the almost miraculous heroism displayed by our combatants in defense self-sufficiency in these operations, he said: The volume of fire that our combatants used in these operations was unprecedented in the course

of the war, and we produced a major part of the ammunition domestically, with the generous help of the serving government. Hence, in the first 20 days of the operations, we succeeded in inundating the miserable enemy with our artillery fire, which still strongly continues.

He added: Considering the volume of the enemy forces in this region, which has been created to prevent the advancement of our combatants, every one of our bullets kills a number of the enemy personnel.

Explaining that the Karbal-5 operations have created an essential change in the course of the war, which, God willing, will continue with the efforts of our combatants, Mr Rafiqdust pointed out the valuable role of the clergy in the mobilization and the training of the resistance forces of the mobilization and asked them to prepare trained forces in the general mobilization to carry out more victorious operations.

In the conclusion of this meeting, a group of Friday imams and clerics presented to the prime minister the gifts of the people to help the war fronts and aid in the reconstruction of the country's flooded regions.

10,000

CSO: 4640/93

IRAN

WOMEN'S CONGRESS CONVENED; HEZBOLLAHI WOMEN VISIT KHOMEYNI

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Feb 87 p 3

[Text] Social service. Corresponding with the blessed birthday of the revered daughter of the Prophet of Islam, her holiness Fatemeh Zahra, and women's day, the congress of women in Islam began its work with the speech of Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i in the afternoon of the day before yesterday (Thursday) at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

In the opening ceremonies of this congress, which was held in the presence of a number of scientific and cultural personalities and a large number of committed women, first Ayatollah Jannati, the head of the Islamic propaganda agency, welcomed the participants and explained the status and position of women in Islam and the Islamic Republic as well as the goals of this seminar.

Then, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the chairman of the Supreme Council of the cultural revolution, spoke in detail on the position of women in the past and present in the West, the different kinds of oppression that have been imposed on women throughout the course of history, and the mutual relations of men and women in the society.

In his speech, the president congratulated all Muslim women on the joyous anniversary of the blessed birth of Fatemeh Zahra and termed the choice of the birthday of Zahra, peace be upon her, for women's day a beautiful one.

Mr Khamene'i said: Certainly, no day is a more appropriate choice than is the birthday of Fatemeh Zahra, who is considered the model of all free women.

Reviewing the Islamic views on women and the duties of women and men in the society, Mr Khamene'i emphasized the modernization of Islamic views in this area.

He said: In today's world, in which women are used only as sexual objects, it is necessary to make the world understand the Islamic views on the issues of men and women, particularly the issue of veiling, and the relationship of these two sexes as well as what the Republic that learns from Islam and speaks through it says.

The president considered the congress on women in Islam a good opportunity to raise the issues and views of Islam concerning women and emphasized that personal tastes must be avoided in studying these issues, and that the text of Islam must be stated so as to make certain that enlightened minds will accept it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i added:

Undoubtedly, what is presented in the world, particularly in the West, as women's freedom is nothing more than promoting this stratum towards material gains.

In this connection, he added: "In the corrupt Western culture, they do not allow women's talents to blossom. They want to take advantage of the physical characteristics and the attraction of this sex for physical pleasure. When Islam spoke about various rights and offered instructions, women were sunken in the darkness of history and Islam was a light that shone in the darkness of history."

The speech of Dr Ahmad Beheshti concerning the effects and benefits of veiling concluded the program on the first day of the women's congress.

The congress on women in Islam will continue its work until 4 Esfand [23 February] this year. Accompanying the work of this congress, for interested visitors, an exhibition of the production work of the self-sufficiency unit of the Imam Khomeyni emergency committee and the national welfare agency is on display along with published books on such topics as the role of women in society and women's rights from the Islamic viewpoint.

In addition, a special program to honor the birthday of the revered daughter of the Prophet and women's day began yesterday in Tehran's Mehrab Hall, through the efforts of the women's art unit of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance.

These ceremonies will continue for three days, during which time aspects of the cultural and artistic abilities of women will be presented.

On the first day of this women's program, Zahra Rahnavard, an art professor at the University of Tehran, and Qamar Fakhkhar, an Indian university professor and a member of the national Islamic society of that country, spoke about the status of women in Islam. Also, in the various cultural and artistic programs, several contemporary poets read their compositions on the subject.

According to this report, the above-mentioned ceremonies were held with the participation of a large number of the committed Muslim women of our Islamic society.

A choral recitation of the Koran in the Tartil method, the performance of a play about the birth of her holiness Fatemeh Zahra, a revolutionary poem, and declamations were among the most important programs of the day before yesterday.

The Beyt al-Nesa' photography exhibition at the ceremonies shows the generosity and self-sacrifice of the Muslim women of our country behind the battle fronts of the combatants against heathenism and monotheism against global heathenism. A number of sisters were living proof of the expansive presence of women in preparing for the fronts and giving assistance to the Islamic combatants. Also, the selected work of women in the areas of painting, miniatures and photography are on display in a separate exhibit.

The combative women of our revolutionary Islamic society also emphasized their presence in the current issues of the country at the ceremonies honoring women's day in Mehrab Hall by engaging in basic instructions on helping those harmed by the possible air attacks of the enemy. Also, they actualized the slogan of "war, war to victory" with their participation, positive responses and their familiarity with medical emergency services, particularly at the time of the enemy air attacks.

Reports of the IRNA correspondents from the various cities of our Islamic nation indicate that similar ceremonies were held yesterday throughout the country and that, by participating in large marches and speeches, women honored the blessed birthday of the revered daughter of the Prophet and women's day.

Sister 'Atefeh Saddiqi-Raja'i, the representative of the Majlis, participated the day before yesterday in a women's march in Esfahan and in a speech at the magnificent assembly at the University of Esfahan, she explained the role of women in the society.

She emphasized: The women of our country today learn from the details of the life of her holiness Fatemeh and they have chosen her as a role model.

Reports indicate: Support for the combatants of Islam, emphasis on resistance against various conspiracies of the enemies, and the continuation of the fight to victory were emphasized by the participating sisters in the assemblies and programs honoring women's day.

Tehran, IRNA

On the occasion of the blessed birthday of Saddiqeh Kobra, her holiness Fatemeh Zahra, and women's day, on two occasions, a large number of Hezbollahi women met with the imam of the nation at the Hoseyniyyeh of Jamaran on the morning of the day before yesterday.

A group of the sisters of the Jame'eh al-Zahra of Qom, the Al-Zahra University of Tehran, and the University of Tehran; and theological students of the Martyr Mottahari School; female students of the teachers' training school; a number of the sisters in the Education Department of the Province of Tehran, the Friday prayer headquarters of Tehran and Qom, and the Towhid center of Esfahan; sisters employed in the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, members of the congress on Islam and women and the office of Islamic propaganda of Qom; female theological students from Gorgan; members of the mobilization training unit and support headquarters for the front; members of the documents

center of the Ministry of Information and the Guards Corps; and a group of women from Tabriz and Rasht along with a group of the female members of the martyrs' families, students and various strata of people were present at this visit.

In the course of this visit, first, one of the sisters presented to the imam of the nation a report on the active presence of women on the various scenes of the society. This report emphasized the role of sisters in the stronghold of science and knowledge in the theological centers and universities and support for the fronts, the enthusiasm of the Hezbollahi women in participating in military training, and women's mobilization. In conclusion, the imam of the nation responded to the cheers of the audience.

10,000

CSO: 4640/94

KURDISH LEADER BARZANI'S BIOGRAPHY, INTERVIEW PUBLISHED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 Feb 87 pp 2, 8

[Biography of and interview with Edris Barzani, the number-two man of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, by ETTELA'AT; date and place not specified]

[Text] Edris Barzani, the number-two man of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, passed away last night as a result of heart failure.

On this occasion, we will take a look at the biography of this combative man of Iraq:

Biography of Edris Barzani

Edris Barzani is the fourth son of Molla Mostafa Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish movement of Iraq (1961-75) and leader of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan. He was born during the 1943 movement (Barzan movement) in Iraq. After the failure of the Kurdish revolution in Iraq, he was taken across Iraqi borders. At that time, he was still nursing. The father remained with his son until 1947, when he had to leave to continue his struggle. Edris Barzani spent a part of his early childhood and youth in the refugee camps, in which the Baghdad regime had placed women, children and retired people. At that time, his father continued his path of struggle along with 450 fighters.

He was then exiled to the Soviet Union.

His exile and being away from home greatly influenced the character of Edris. Because of his forced exile from one border camp to another, from Soleymaniyyeh to Ardabil and from Ardabil to Musel, he did not have the normal educational opportunities. However, at this time, he did not stop his education and, despite the existing pressures, because of his intelligence, he was always respected by his teachers and was always a distinguished student at school.

Following the 14 July 1958 coup d'etat, his father returned from exile and once again the members of the family were united. At that time, Edris attended high school in Baghdad. When the great movement of Iraqi Kurdistan

started once again in 1961, he was unable to complete his high school education. The family was forced to return to the city of Barzan, where they were put under the supervision of Sheykh Ahmad Barzani, the uncle of Edris and chief of the Barzan tribe. At this time, his father headed the Kurdistan movement.

In 1965, he returned to his father, serving as his special secretary, because Edris spoke Arabic well. After one year, he joined the line of the leaders of the movement.

The talents of Edris became quite apparent when he was appointed his father's representative to supervise the well-known "Hendrin" battle, which marks a turning point in the history of the Kurdish movement of Iraq. This battle occurred in June 1966. In it, two regiments of the Iraqi army were completely destroyed and the government of Iraq during the premiership of 'Abdolrahman Bazzaz (the prime minister of President 'Abdolrahman 'Aref) was forced to sign an agreement with the movement, which resulted in the communique of 29 June 1966. During the two years for which this cease-fire lasted, Edris remained with his father at the central base and, along with Mas'ud Barzani (his brother) and his father, controlled the liberated region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

While preparing for the signing of the 11 March 1970 agreement, Edris, along with his brother Mas'ud, headed the negotiating delegation. He escaped an assassination attempt by the Ba'thist regime the following year.

In the seventh Congress of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq (1970), he was selected as a member of the central committee of the Party.

Edris spoke Arabic well and was also fluent in Persian and English.

After his father's death in 1979, he and his brother Mas'ud reorganized the Party and the armed forces.

Edris Barzani was elected as a political officer of the Party by the ninth Congress of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iraq and was active in that position to the end of his life.

We offer our condolences to the Kurdish combatants of Iraq on the death of Edris Barzani.

We have received the unfortunate news of the death in a Tehran hospital of Mr Edris Barzani, the number-two man of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq, as a result of a heart attack.

Mr Edris Barzani was a major leader of the Kurdish people of Iraq. He devoted his entire life to persistent and unyielding struggle for the rights of the oppressed Kurdish people of Iraq. In this capacity, he brought about significant gains for the Kurds, the most oppressed of the people of Iraq, who have always suffered a double injustice at the hands of the Ba'thist regime governing that country.

Many experts consider him one of the most competent leaders of the Iraqi Kurds. He stood by the Iraqi Kurds for years, undergoing many hardships of struggle, and refused to submit to the humiliation of cooperation and peace with the Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

The importance of the efforts of the Barzani brothers, especially Edris, in strengthening the unity and the combative organization of the Iraqi Kurds becomes apparent when we recall the history of the Democratic Party in Iraq after the defeat in 1975.

In that year, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan suffered from divisiveness, which provided the best opportunity for the Iraqi regime to suppress the Kurdish strugglers of that country.

However, defeat and division were soon replaced by unity and organization in the pursuit of persistent, unyielding struggle against the Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

In this direction, the optimistic attention of the Barzani brothers to supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran played an important role in the great successes of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq.

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan was able to arrange especially brilliant disruptive operations against the Ba'thist regime of Iraq by establishing bases on Iraqi soil.

An example of such success was the temporary occupation of the "Darbandikhan" region in Iraq, which took place some time ago. In this incident, the most strategically important region in Iraq was attacked by the Democratic Kurds. This region plays a vital role in the Iraqi economy, both because of the existence of the international highway which connects Iraq with Turkey and Europe and because of the pipeline through which Iraq exports oil.

Another successful operation entitled Fath must also be pointed out, in which the Kurdish self-sacrificers along with the Iranian Muslim combatants infiltrated 150 km into Iraq soil and attacked the Karkuk refinery.

The most important step by the Barzani brothers regarding the Democratic Party of Kurdistan was the signing of an alliance treaty with the union of Kurdish patriots led by Jalal Talebani, which resulted in uniting the lines of the Kurdish strugglers against the Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

As Western analysts have stated in observing the increasing success of the Iraqi Kurds: "The words and writings of the Iraqi government indicate that the Kurds are now a decisive, strong element fighting against the Iraqi regime."

The struggling unity of the Iraqi Kurds has had such an effect on the confrontation of this stratum of the people of Iraq against the Ba'thist regime that now, 2 of the 7 army units of the military of that country, with personnel numbering 16,000, are stationed in Iraqi Kurdistan.

In regards to the Kurdish Democratic Party, it is believed that the vast expansion of this party includes more than 100,000 armed and paramilitary personnel, and this number is able to be doubled. Hence, with its military capability, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq has gradually taken central Kurdistan away from the domination and control of Iraq.

In a report last year from the areas of the Democrats in Iraqi Kurdistan, LE MONDE writes:

Thus far, hundreds of new supporters have joined the Kurdish Democratic Party. They are not only the old self-sacrificers, who sought refuge in Iran after the elimination of the movement by General Barzani (Mostafa) in 1975, or the mountain dwellers who blindly obey their tribal chiefs. Most of the Kurdish self-sacrificers are young workers, students, or children of villagers who consider this battle to be the only alternative to free themselves from the pressure and suppression which is severely imposed on the Iraqi Kurds. Undoubtedly, the political and military victories of the Kuridish Democratic Party cannot be separated from the leadership of the Barzani brothers. Also, the decisive emphasis of the Barzani brothers on fighting the Iraqi regime to gain the rights of the Kurds in that country is another distinguishing characteristic of their political struggle that must be credited particularly to the late Edris Barzani.

He always insisted that the only way to gain the lost rights of the Kurdish people of Iraq is through unyielding struggle against the Ba'thist regime governing that country, and that along this path, it would be best to seek the help of an alliance with the Islamic Republic.

He also participated in the conference on the cooperation of the Iraqi nation, which was held some time ago with the participation of political and ideological parties and groups opposing the regime of that country in Tehran, and said: The vast presence of the opponents and strugglers against the Iraqi regime in this conference provides a hopeful future for the continued struggle of the Iraqi nation.

He added: The Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq supports the results of a free and widespread referendum in Iraq to determine the future government of that country.

Fortunately, the active presence of the late Mr Edris Barzani in the conference on the cooperation of the Iraqi people provided an opportunity for an interview (even though brief) with him concerning the struggles of the Iraqi nation and the future of that country.

Interview with Edris Barzani by ETTELA'AT

ETTELA'AT: How do you evaluate the present situation with regard to the struggles of the various Iraqi forces against Saddam and what solutions do you propose to improve the quality of the struggles?

Edris Barzani: There is no other way to fight the regime of Saddam but armed struggle and trying to eliminate this figure of oppression. The situation with regard to the struggles in the Kurdish region of Iraq is excellent, due to the favorable position of the region and the continuous resistance of the Kurds. The combative Kurdish forces conduct operations every day in the north and northeast of Iraq, this region is almost completely out of the control of the mercenaries of the Ba'thist Party; the Iraqi army has little control over this area. We expect central and south Iraq to escalate their operations and to make more effort to liberate the oppressed nation of this country.

ETTELA'AT: What program do you propose for the future of Iraq?

[Answer] There are various views concerning the future; but we believe that all potential resources must be employed to overthrow the dictatorial, puppet Ba'thist regime. At the present, we must think of nothing but this issue, because our primary concern is to remove this sinister obstacle. After the overthrow of this regime, we will decide what should be done.

ETTELA'AT: Have you thought about an alternative after Saddam?

[Answer] After the Ba'thist regime is overthrown, a completely free and fair referendum must be arranged and the right to choose the kind of government entrusted to the people.

ETTELA'AT: What will you do if the opinion of the people in the future referendum is contrary to your wishes and opinion?

[Answer] We are behind the people 100 percent and want the government for the people. We believe that the people are aware and must be free to determine their own destiny.

If we feel that the referendum is held freely and fairly, we will accept the views and the wishes of the people and endorse them, even if they are contrary to ours.

ETTELA'AT: What is your opinion about other combative groups that oppose Saddam?

[Answer] We consider all of them our friends and brothers and supporters of the people and we respect all of them. They have made an effort, according to their own ability, and they must continue to support the just struggle of the people in order to achieve the goals of the people. The cooperation of all of these forces, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, to gain the freedom of the Iraqi people deserves thanks. We hope that their goal and intent is to attain the rights of the people.

ETTELA'AT: How do you evaluate the cooperation conference of the Iraqi people?

[Answer] This conference automatically brings us a step closer to unity and is very valuable to us.

ETTELA'AT: What do you expect of the other struggling Iraqi forces?

[Answer] We must invite all the combative forces to concentrate on the struggle against the Ba'thist regime and ask all of them to help each other to attain the freedom, rights and liberation of the suffering Iraqi people. They must avoid disunity and self-centeredness, because if these forces do not help each other, no one will help them.

ETTELA'AT: How do you view the composition of the participating forces in the government after the overthrow of Saddam, and how will you deal with various political parties, particularly the leftist Iraqi forces?

[Answer] We want a coalition for Iraq. If we want freedom, we must want this freedom for all the people, of course, within the limitations of the law, a law that will be devised by the true representatives of the people.

The news of the death of Edris Barzani created a wave of sorrow in Iraqi and Iranian Kurdistan. Certainly, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq will continue its struggle against the Ba'thist regime after the death of Mr Edris Barzani.

ETTELA'AT offers its condolences to the Kurdish people of Iraq, especially to Mr Edris Barzani's brother Mr Mas'ud Barzani, upon this unpleasant event and asks Almighty God for their success.

10,000
CSO: 4640/92

U.S. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS CRITICIZED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 18 Feb 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Important Responsibility of American Ambassador"]

[Text] Mr Dean Hinten, United States ambassador, made Pakistan's atomic program the topic of discussion while speaking at the Institute of Strategic Studies at Islamabad recently. He warned that a slight mistake in this area could result in a war in this subcontinent and could effect U.S. aid to Pakistan. He advised Pakistan to show its guts and sign the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This is not the first or the last attempt to stop Pakistan's atomic program. United States deputy secretary of state was in Islamabad last month to discuss the Afghanistan situation. He also pressured our government to sign the NPT unilaterally. The United States has been putting pressure on Pakistan on this issue for a long time. It was the United States that stopped the procurement of an atomic reprocessing plant. It forced France to back off from an international pact with Pakistan. The American ambassador knows well that Pakistan had agreed to accept all restrictions imposed by the International Atomic Agency in connection with the French reprocessing plant deal. Still, the United States forced the French government out of this deal and Pakistan has not received the reprocessing plant to this date. Pakistan has paid \$10 billion out of the total \$40 billion in advance to France. All this proves that whether Pakistan agrees to the international treaties or not, the U.S.-Jewish-Indian lobby will raise hue and cry against Pakistan. The American ambassador played his usual role yesterday and even went as far as to threaten Pakistan. He even advocated India in these words: "India is way ahead of Pakistan in the fields of military and science and can survive a war with Pakistan." Mr Hinten has been in as an ambassador in Pakistan for several years and must have tried to understand the problems in this area. However, it takes thousands of years to understand the Hindus. The Muslims in this subcontinent have been living here that long and now do understand the Hindu mentality. Advising us after living most of his life seven seas away will not help us, rather this will make our problems worse. The U.S. ambassador, when talking of India being ahead of Pakistan in science, should know that India blasted an atomic bomb in 1974. Should not the United States put pressure on India instead of leading a diplomatic attack against Pakistan. If the United States advises Pakistan of such "brave" acts, then it should have agreed to cancel its Star War program as suggested by secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party during the Iceland summit. Recently,

Gorbachev suggested in a speech to the International Forum in Moscow that the United States and the Soviet Union should recall their armed forces from every part of the world. He also suggested elimination of all foreign bases, ban on space weapons, and reduction in all kind of atomic weapons. The Soviet leader discussed recall of Soviet armed forces from Afghanistan and Mongolia in this context.

The steps outlined by Mr Gorbachev for international peace have little to do with Pakistan. Mr Hinten is in a much better position to tell us if the United States will accept these suggestions and show the kind of "bravery" he has asked Pakistan to demonstrate and become a lion! We do not want to go into a debate here, however, believe that it is our right to comment on U.S. ambassador's statement "there might be problems in U.S. aid to Pakistan if it did not stop its atomic program." We believe that Pakistan's atomic program is not based on evil designs and Pakistan has the right to make any decision on it. However, if due to some misunderstanding or under the influence of negative propaganda the aid to Pakistan is cancelled, it could be a blessing in disguise for us. Two major causes of our problems are the foreign aid and the loans from the World Bank. We have already mortgaged the future of our several generations. We are aware that the United States has convinced our bureaucracy that Pakistan cannot be run without international loans. We hope that should Pakistan be challenged as a nation, Pakistan's citizens will prove that they are free, proud, and united as a race. We grant that the honorable ambassador has a right to represent the U.S. view, however, he also has another responsibility because of his position. He should understand Pakistan's problems and position and explain those to his government. He should help us by not making decisions based on negative propaganda against Pakistan. We believe that this is a very important responsibility of the U.S. ambassador. He should make this a part of his diplomatic responsibilities.

7997

CSO: 4656/55

WALI KHAN TALKS OF 'RED REVOLUTION'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Mar 87 p 8

[Article by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text]

PESHAWAR, March 5: The ANP President Khan Abdul Wali Khan has said the ruling classes and the so-called champions of Islam would be unable to forestall the red revolution which has become the destiny of Pakistan.

Addressing a big public meeting at Karak Thursday on the conclusion of his four-day visit to southern NWFP, Wali Khan declared that the people wanted a change in the system and not a mere change of faces. He opined that only a revolutionary change could provide the panacea for the deep rooted ills plaguing the country and the society. He claimed the ANP was struggling precisely for the same goals as it wanted the people to be provided the right to rule the country and to be made partners in its wealth and resources.

Criticising the political, economic and foreign policies of the government, the ANP chief contended that there was uncertainty and chaos in the country, the economy lay shattered, and the people were constrained to provide for their own security. He said a flawed for American foreign policy had made matters worse. Wali Khan added that corruption

had touched an all time high, unemployment was on the rise, and industrial labour was being thrown out of jobs due to closure of mills.

Lamenting the lack of unity among Pakhtoons, the ANP President felt concerted efforts had again been launched to split their ranks in the name of Islam. He said those who had exploited Islam for political motives have become active when the ANP was striving to unite Pakhtoons and other oppressed nationalities. Wali Khan recalled that the commoners defeated a powerful man like Khan Bahadur Ali Quli Khan in Karak when they forged unity in their ranks in 1930 under the leadership of the 'Red Shirts'. He remembered that the people of Karak were a lively and disciplined lot when he visited them 45 years ago but the emotionalism displayed in today's meeting was unprecedented.

Lashing out at the religious political parties, Wali Khan chided them for serving in the Martial Law government of Gen Ziaul Haq and yet failing to enforce an Islamic system in the country which could have been easily done through a Martial Law decree. He

maintained that none of these parties was sincere to Islam otherwise they would not have been split into Jamaat-e-Islami, JUI (Fazlur Rehman group), JUI (Darkhysti Group) JUP and even Muslim League. He felt they should have unified into one party like if they aimed at enforcing Islam just like the four left parties which merged into the ANP.

Earlier, Wali Khan was accorded a rousing welcome when he reached Spin Tangi from Bannu on his way to Karak. Travelling in an open jeep at the head of a long vehicular procession, he was greeted by throngs of people on the roadside. Ceremonial arches were erected at several places and groups of welcoming crowds presented 'Khattak' dance. Flower petals were showered on the ANP chief amidst animated anti Government and anti-American slogans and in support of the Afghan revolution. ANP leaders Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, Latif Afridi, Arbab Hymayun Farid Toofan, Sarfraz Mahmood Khilal Akbar Afridi and PSF office bearers Khan Iftikhar Hussain, Sadruddin Marwat, Arbab Altaf and Matiullah Farhad accompanied Wali Khan during its visit.

/9317

CSO: 4600/175

'OFFICIAL GAME' OF LEADERS' ARREST, RELEASE CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Mar 87 p 1

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text]

Sind is now experiencing dangerous kind of politics. In a troubled province with already too many divisive and quarrelling political parties and leaders in the government is breeding yet more 'leaders' by arresting and detaining some of the small figures for long periods. City level figures are being made major leaders and regional leaders national figures through this curious but persistent process.

Mr. Rasul Bux Palejo of the Sind Awami Tehrik became a national leader through this process instead of confining his activities with notable devotion to the uplift of the Sindhi, rural masses. He was in Jail for over six years, and his release was demanded persistently by all the major political parties. And soon after his release his party joined the MRD and dropped its provincial prefix to become the national Awami Tehrik. Since then he has been speaking from a national platform.

Jam Saqi, too, has become a significant leftist leader after being in jail for over years. His health too deteriorated while imprisoned and there were widespread reports of torture while in custody. He was released only after a prolonged demand for that from the political leaders.

Compared to them, the period of detention of Afiaz Shahid, MNA from Karachi's explosive Orangi with its largely Bihari popu-

lation was around ten months. He was arrested on a charge of toring explosives in his car, parked in front of the place where he was on hunger strike to press his demand for repatriation of Pakistanis of Bihari origin from Bangladesh. His health too deteriorated rapidly while under detention and meanwhile he was unseated from the National Assembly by the Election Commission.

His release came only after a violent agitation in Orangi in which several persons died, a number of public buses and other transport were burnt down and a large number of persons injured. Mr. Shahid told the National Assembly that over four thousand bullets were fired by the police at people agitating for his release.

The agitation for his release might not have become so violent and sustained if the government had not earlier released Mr. Altaf Hussain chief of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, following a similar violent agitation. Arson, stoning of buses, and combat with the police ultimately resulted in his release after over three months in jail.

There was widespread violence in the areas from which Mr. Palejo and Mr. Jam Saqi came but that was not expressly to obtain their release but for the larger of cause of restoration of democracy and provincial autonomy as well.

And now the supporters of Mr. Mumtaz Bhutto believe that the only way they can obtain his release from detention is through their own round of violence. Instead of being released after the 90-day period his detention has been

extended on the charge that he and other SBPF leaders made an objectionable speech in Thatta sometime ago. Normally leaders accused of making such speeches are prosecuted without arresting them, but not in Mr. Bhutto's case. So if the agitation for his release in Karachi may not become strong because of his small following here it can pick up steam in the interior of Sind after the deadline of Feb. 27 set for his release by the SBPF leaders of Sind expires.

Why has the government set this pattern of arresting leaders on relatively minor or spurious charges as in the case of Mr. Afaq Shahid, detaining them for long to medium periods, and releasing them after outburst of prolonged violence in which several persons die, many more are injured and a considerable quantity of public property, notably buses, are destroyed? All this seems to provoke violence in a city in which the efforts of all should be directed at ending such disorder.

At times, the arrest relatively less known figures and their release after a strong public

agitation comes handy for the government. Mr. Altaf Hussain of the MQM whose stature had been enhanced by his arrest, was the principal opponent of the Payva Jam call of the KMC Action Committee following the arrest of Mayor Afghani and a hundred KMC councillors. He was exempted from the limitations of Section 144 and he went around urging people not to shut shops and do anything else to make Jamaat-led strike a success on Sunday.

How long will this all too dangerous official game go on? If the ousted mayor is not released soon his Jamaat-i-Islami may launch a violent agitation as violence seems to be the only tool that works in such protest.

Such unconcern of the government for new waves of violence, in an explosive city has given rise to the belief that the government wants persistent violence to pave the way for the fourth martial law. That is what Lt. Gen. Azam Khan too said after spending a long time in the disturbed areas. The Government's actions give own credence to this claim.

/9317

CSO: 4600/175

BENAZIR TALKS ABOUT ZIA, RAJIV, OTHER MATTERS

Calcutta SUNDAY in English 15-21 Mar 87 pp 31-35

[Article by Aveek Sarkari: "A Woman of Substance", first para SUNDAY introduction]

[Text] It was a room with a view. The colonial edifice at 70 Clifton Road adjoining the Bhutto ancestral home in Karachi was predictably a la Gandhi--the prime ministerial complex at Akbar and Safdarjung Road. The furniture in the room was not Sind-Victorian unlike old Karachi homes, but reflected the signs of times: a computer, oil on canvas showing Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto signing the Simla Agreement and a pair of all-purpose tables which can be used for conferences and political parleys and on which Benazir Bhutto later served lunch to the SUNDAY correspondent.

She hides behind big, dark glasses like any other famous woman. Her eyesight, she explained, "is not very good." "The glasses don't do you justice," I said, "why not use contacts?" Benazir Bhutto, who at 33, inherits her father's tall, slender looks and his public adulation, was unresponsive to my suggestion. "My eyes are very sensitive," she said, "they just don't adjust to contact lenses."

The heat in Pakistan is strong and she has more than one reason to wear those glasses. There is the eyesight and there is the glare. The last is so strong that "one cannot see the people one is addressing". Nervousness? No, no, believe it or not, "the eyes have to be protected from the flower petals that are showered on." Sometimes people throw them with such force, she recalls.

Dark glasses hide something else: fate and circumstances. Once she believed that "you make your own destiny". A lot had happened since then. No longer. She "did not decide to go to jail", it was "somebody else". Circumstances put "me there". She "did not decide to go to England" but she "had no other

option". She could of course have said no. She could have withdrawn from her political life and she would not have to go to jail. But often she thinks "it is a duty". Nor would she rebel against circumstances because circumstance "helps a person".

Help it does. Six of the past nine years in the life of young Benazir have been spent in custody. She was invariably alone as most of the time she was in solitary detention. It took its toll. She found her

"hair fell off. Even some of my cavities came under". She had an ear problem though the doctors at the prison assured her there was nothing wrong. One day she fell down, and the doctors said she might suffer facial paralysis if she was not immediately operated on. It was "not just my suffering, there were so many other people who suffered": there was her father whom she has nearly resurrected from the dead, her mother with the inevitable agony of lung cancer, her brother dying in mysterious circumstances in Europe.

For an attractive young girl educated in such liberal temples of learning as Radcliffe and Oxford, and born to wealth and fame, it should have been the best of times. It was not. But it

had nothing to do with being single. She did not contemplate marriage because she "had not so much time to think over. Most journalists ask me this question," she said with a twinkle in her eyes. Then, you should be well prepared, I suggested. "I wish I was well prepared," she said. "It is one of the questions I am least prepared for, considering how often I am asked this question."

Boyfriend? An English friend of mine did ask the question and was sternly told that "Pakistani society would not take it kindly if we discussed such a subject. I'm a Muslim woman in a Muslim society and there are certain topics that Muslim women don't discuss." Others, however, do. Expatriate Pakistani writer Salman Rushdie has a thinly disguised character called "virgin Ironpant" in *Shame*, a novel on his native country. Such tasteless jokes apart, a woman politician in an Islamic society has other problems. "I can't embrace people or ruffle their hair like my father or brother used to do," she has said in an interview. "Such actions often say more than words, but this camaraderie can only exist man to man."

But words too have their uses. Or else Asia's third world nations would not have produced a galaxy of women leaders who have proved their mettle under very trying conditions: Indira Gandhi, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Jian Qing, Haseena Wajed and Corazon Aquino. Jian Qing is "a resolute lady with a remarkable past". Sirimavo "embodies the characteristic of endurance in the Asian woman". Haseena, like herself, has risen above "the tragedies and trauma of a family massacre" and is "battling a corrupt military dictatorship". Indira Gandhi's "fragile demeanour covered nerves of steel". They are "courageous" (Haseena), "strong and defiant" (Jian Qing) and "charming and gracious" (Sirimavo), sometimes also "tragic and unhappy" (Indira). They are "imprisoned" (Indira, Jian Qing) and persecuted (Sirimavo) but in the end the regime that "humiliates them ends up in humiliating itself" (Aquino, Indira). They are "disqualified from public life" (Sirimavo) and "die for their country" (Indira), but the "humiliation of a trial does not break them" (Jian). With a touch of Lib pride, Benazir adds that "it is the women who have championed the cause of democracy" and, need we add, "it is the men who have destroyed the electoral process". While the "male rulers have (often) been ruthless and oppressive", the women "have sacrificed and

suffered...in opposing cruel dictators".

But it is with Corazon Aquino that Benazir Bhutto finds herself most frequently compared. Not surprisingly, she has more than a passing admiration for this extraordinary housewife from Philippines. Not only because "she lost her husband in an extremely painful circumstance" but because "she has picked up the pieces in her family life and she has picked up the pieces in his political life". Cory, says the young Miss Bhutto, did not lose her nerve in crucial times. She is courageous and tenacious. And adds: "She is one great lady."

She finds both similarity and differences between her and Mrs Aquino. "Cory had an election to take part in" while she is yet to have an opportunity to "transfer her popular support into a mandate". And then she is told that "other differences exist in the sense that the clergy was with Mrs Aquino while the clergy is against the People's Party". She is quick to add that the clergy in the Philippines never sided with the dictatorship and therefore had a clean image. And in Pakistan? "The clergy here sided with the Martial law from its inception and does not have the respect." Mrs Aquino, on the other hand, was "handicapped because she did not have a political party". Her's is a new party and therefore "it was more difficult for her to run a government". The People's Party "is an institution that is 20 years old" and amongst it "are hosts of people who have enjoyed governmental experience being ministers, chief ministers, etc."

Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party, in contrast, is over one hundred years old and the empathy is more than obvious. She has not met Rajiv. "Not yet. Inshallah" but likes him. Because "he is a young leader and has got India's interest at heart". Ergo, she continues, "he is energetic, he has a political background".

"Surely we have our own ruling Gandhis," a Pakistani colleague asks. As Benazir did not rise to the bait I asked her if she would like to compare the Bhutto family with the Gandhi family? "Well," she begins to reply and then stops and asks, "in what way?"

"Born to rule," I prompt.

"No, no," she says, "I don't think there has ever been a concept of born to rule. At least not in my family. Of course it has been a political family through many generations. But never a sense of born to rule. Not even a sense of born to go into politics. It so happened that my father did go into politics and if he had not been overthrown, perhaps I would not have gone into politics." Surprise, surprise, I said, wouldn't Mr Gandhi like to say the same thing? She avoids a reply. She needn't have. Telltale evidence lay

next to her in the shape of a Brother computer. I asked if apart from Rajiv Gandhi's youth, energy, and political background, she shared his enthusiasm for computers? "Oh, you saw that computer," she says and then laughs it off, "but I don't know how to use it as yet."

Dynastic tendencies? She would "distinguish between a family that becomes a focus of public loyalty through dedication and generations of... sacrifice and one which is there by birth-right alone". She even finds "inter-generational spirit in many political families for the uplift of their people".

If the two ruling families have so much in common and if it was possible to travel back in time would she have advocated against partition?

"Now, now," she laughs and in a gently berating tone says, "We don't ask questions like that. Most certainly not. Pakistan is a part of history."

I decide to be naughty and try my luck, "But there is always a trade-off. It would at least have been difficult for Zia to capture power." She is quick to the point: "I have been born in Pakistan and I love my country for it is the country I have always known. But there are a few who say that had India not been divided we would not have Zia-ul Haq. Well, it is very dangerous for our country not to have representative rule. Because it can strike at the very foundation of your integrity. This is more true of a country like Pakistan which came out of choice. A country that was always under map could perhaps absorb an unrepresentative form of government. But those who oppose the coming of a country as Pakistan would always say, 'See, the reason we opposed it was right.' That is why only a democratic country can maintain Pakistan's unity."

But is democracy possible in an Islamic country?

Well, she "has heard that view" but clearly doesn't agree with it. Unfortunately, she says, most third world countries—Islamic or non-Islamic—have not had democracy. "Because of British rule both India and Pakistan have had an exposure to parliamentary system. Our people have learnt the exercise of certain rights. And that is why the struggle for parliamentary democracy has not been crushed in Pakistan. I think if India can have a democracy most certainly Pakistan can have a democracy."

Then why the difference?

"In India the army came in from many federating units so they were unable to have a *coup d'état*."

I had with me a friend from Philippines who naturally had to ask if the army would remain an element of instability even if political change does come to Pakistan?

Benazir nodded sympathetically and accepted that "elections alone will not end the great concentration of power". An elected government must be able to rule in a stable manner. Mrs Aquino proved her acceptability because she has provided stability. Besides, she hoped that the political parties would have learnt a lesson by now.

But political parties never learn. Even Rajiv who "has India's interests at heart" legislated for the compulsory quiescence to the Shariat laws. Benazir is a little more liberal than India's "leader of choice". Religion, she concedes, is important and "people should have the right to observe the religious rites and tradition". Yet she would prefer to have Muslim personal law and the civil law side by side and "leave it to the individuals to choose". People are "unaware of their rights" — civil or religious. So her party is trying to educate the people about law. They should know, for instance, "which arrest is legal and which arrest is not". Along with that, she explains "you should write in the marriage contract (what happens) in the event of a break-up". She would certainly "pray for its success" but advises "that you should think of the best and the worst". Marriage is not entirely out of her ken.

And relations, marital or otherwise, do have a habit of turning sour particularly "when there is a dictatorship in Pakistan". In 1971 when "we lost a war, had an empty treasury, 90,000 prisoners of war and 5,000 square miles of lost territory", she trotted along with her father to India for a first-hand experience in the art of diplomacy. "I was possibly a detraction," she now recalls, pointing to an oil painting of Zulfikar Ali signing the Simla Agreement. "We got an honourable settlement," she says proudly, because in foreign policy "I learnt (from my father) that we don't do small pinpricks".

But pinpricks are all that the good general is adept at. Thus "the manner in which we have behaved with the Sikhs has fuelled India's suspicion. How have Sikhs here been permitted to take their demonstration while Pakistanis are not permitted to do so? Sikhs are permitted to go to Nankana Sahib but when Pakistanis go to Dada Darbar Sahib they are lathicharged and tear-gassed ... The most brutal killings took place along the Punjab border at the time of Independence. Most of the time it was considered the Sikhs were responsible because they did not want the division of Punjab. They were behind it. For the first time since Independence Sikhs have been invited to the President's House. It has never happened in the history of Pakistan. They should not be wined and dined in the President's House." Side by side "there is an effort to please India" — petulance and appeasement — twin

policies in Zia's road to ruination. Thus "we have lost areas in the Siachen, but the regime kept it a secret". Now "they have emboldened India to the fact that if there was a military pressure, Pakistan was not going to react". So what can be done about it?

"We are always going to assume that the arms acquired by India are going to be used against us. India is always going to assume that arms acquired by us will be used against them."

What would she have done? She would "ensure while securing defence, we do not take any such equipment, that make another of our borders less secure."

And has it?

"Pakistan and India have come twice in this decade of staring eyeball to eyeball with each other. People are saying that Gorbachov is restraining Rajiv and giving a package deal whereby a settlement is arrived at and in return India is restrained... The People's Party believes that it is important that relations with India

should not deteriorate. I think it is important for India and Pakistan to live in peace."

Thus the thoughts of Chairperson Benazir. Not through a glass darkly but face to face. Often a professional politician—her father's daughter—honing her horns against arguably the most skilled politician of the region, a man she accuses of "judicially murdering" her father. Often, too, a young innocent admitting to being exposed to "attention", admitting also to the fact that a wrong question can make her irritable. ("How can you as a friend not appreciate?") Full of unsuspected charm which is turned on when needed. ("If all journalists are as charming as you are, I am sure all politicians will get along much better.") Always in a hurry. ("I am told: why are you rushing things? You are young. You can wait. Zia will go... You can have everything you want.") The permanent role model of the Pakistan Sloan Ranger ("...privileges or perks? I have seen it all"). Well coiffured, well groomed—matching perfumes, one suspects, to demonstration and occasion — but like Satyajit Ray's *Devi* trapped in a world not wholly of her own choosing. Circumstances?

/9317

CSO: 4600/176

PROLIFERATION OF ARMS IN PUNJAB CRITICIZED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 19 Feb 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Abundance of Arms"]

[Text] According to a survey more than 500 thousand persons are licensed to carry arms and most of these licenses were issued during the tenure of present government. We have criticized this practice of wholesale issue of licenses to carry arms. Such practice is not good for our country. When too many people carry arms it is not only difficult to keep law and order, but also encourages smuggling of weapons. Those who are worried about Karachi becoming another Beirut base their fears on many aspects, but this abundance of weapons is the major reason. It was after the easy availability of weapons that the small factions started to attack each other in Beirut. Now, the Palestine militia and Druz groups are working against each other. This practice has all but destroyed unity and harmony in Lebanon. Fire arms licenses were issued for self-protection, but this practice has resulted in grave danger to peace in our country and has started a competition in exhibiting mortally dangerous weapons. This is not exactly a good practice.

7997

CSO: 4656/55

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO SIND OPPOSED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 19 Feb 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Restrictions on Non-Sindhis"]

[Text] The Sind Assembly has approved a bill proposed by Sayed Imdad Mohammad Shah for discussion. This bill asks for restriction on entry into Sind by people living in other parts of Pakistan and from other countries. Their activities, the proponent of the bill believes, has caused serious situation in Sind. Members of provincial assemblies have the right to discuss the province's affairs within the framework of the autonomy given a province. It is the right of the government and representatives of Sind's people to decide how to deal with people migrating to Sind according to economic and social situation in Sind. However, the representatives and the government have the fundamental responsibility of ensuring that their decision does not negatively influence our national unity and inter-provincial harmony. Pakistan was established on Islamic philosophy. Morally and legally we cannot deny any Pakistani to enter or live in any province. The proponent of this bill should request the federal government to implement policies of social and economic justice to help solve the economic problems in the state instead of imposing restrictions on entry into the province. The people of Sind will benefit from such an action. Sind belongs equally to all people whether they have lived here for centuries or moved here after Pakistan was established because of their belief in a separate Muslim nation. We should work toward increasing harmony among the provinces and love among people instead of proposing bills that spread the "fire of hatred." People who have moved from other provinces, India, and Bangladesh have contributed equally to Sind's development. Their role in improving Sind's agricultural and industrial production and trade is commendable. They have been very active in Sind's overall progress. Insulting them by calling them "immigrant" will not help anyone. Representatives of Sind's people should serve the nation by working toward national unity and not going into the narrow alley of provinciality.

7997

CSO: 4656/55

POLICE 'RAJ', BRUTALITY CRITICIZED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 5 Mar 87 pp 7-8

[Text]

In addition to cases of wild shooting, there are frequent deaths in police custody. The latest occurred last week in the Shahdara Police Station, when a villager from Bhera, vaguely suspected of being a drug peddler, was tortured and beaten so much under interrogation that he died. A crude cover-up of the crime was attempted by making out that he had committed suicide. Ultimately the truth leaked out. The victim's son made a noise and the local Press took up the story. A case under section 302 PPC (murder) has now been registered against the four or five Shaheen Force constables involved. If the men are found guilty by the court of law, they will be punished suitably. But what happens in cases where no heir is on hand to shout or when newspapers do not get wind of the story or where the cover-up is more successful? How many persons have died in police custody without any follow-up action? How many murderers remain in uniform, climbing the ladder gradually to more responsible positions?

Since Pakistan is said to be on the march to democracy, something

must be done urgently to smash the edifice of police raj which makes government functioning difficult because the people are increasingly alienated from Authority. Many committees and commissions have been set up over the decades to bring in reform, and even today some sort of effort is underway to check maladministration. However, the truth is that authoritarianism cannot sustain itself except through administrative actions in breach of the law; and the police can not be reformed unless Government is prepared to abide by the rule of law. The rule of law cannot, of course, be interpreted as submission to every edict issued by an officer. It connotes respect for the due process of law which can only be evolved under the guidance of the highest principles of democracy.

Therefore, while every effort should continue to be made to control police *zulm* and check maladministration, the real remedy lies in the establishment and proper functioning of democratic institutions at all levels, so that the administration can be subordinated to the people's will.

/9317

CSO: 4600/176

KARACHI: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HELP URGED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 5 Mar 87 p 42

[Text] A team of two Federal Ministers and some Federal secretaries has visited Sind to study its problems. At a dinner hosted by the Chief Minister of Sind, the focus, inevitably, was on Karachi. While this initiative on the part of the Federal Government may fail to generate much excitement because of the failure of many similar moves in the past to yield meaningful results, it does provide another opportunity to review Karachi's long list of problems and outline possible remedies if these are going to attract more serious attention than they so far have.

Karachi has long been fed on very many promissory notes which are rarely honoured. A real Federally-funded renovation of Karachi's services will not require any official handouts to be registered on the minds of the harassed citizens. Another familiar pattern is that of the appointment of special commission to look into Karachi's problems. The latest was the Commission of Inquiry on Karachi Affairs headed by Mr Masud-uz-Zaman. It was appointed on October 31, 1985 and the report was submitted in March 1986. This report has not yet been made public, though it is reported to have laid great stress on the need for a rapid transit system for Karachi. The President and the Prime Minister have both repeatedly spoken about the chronic civic problems of Karachi. Still, no major breakthrough is in sight. Transport has regularly been cited as a major problem and it certainly has prompted more disorder than any other single grievance. Yet no sizeable aid was provided either to develop a mass transit system such as an underground, surface or elevated railway or to buy a large enough fleet of buses to ease the travails of the commuters. After the recent bloody upheavals, Karachi is crying for immediate and effective help. This help must at least be equal to the urgent needs. The more it is delayed, the more costly will it become. It is not just a matter of crisis management. Partial solutions or palliatives will not do. The city needs a massive transfusion of funds. Resources are scarce but the cost of leaving Karachi to stew in its own juice would be absolutely prohibitive. It would make more economic sense to help Karachi now as measure of strategic defence of the nation's health. And this help must be in the form of a regular and assured flow from the Federal sources and adequate to the correctly assessed needs of the city.--DAWN, Feb 28

/9317

CSO: 4600/176

COMMENTARY URGES 'PRAGMATIC' APPROACH TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Mar 87 p 4

[Text]

THE gap between Pakistan's need for large-scale foreign investment and the actual investment has been too large. Varied measures announced by the Government so far, and the impassioned appeals made by Gen. Zia, the Prime Minister and other Ministers during their foreign tours, particularly in the U.S. , have not produced notable results. Nor have the visits of a significant number of foreign investment missions to Pakistan altered the situation.

Indisputably, foreign investors have no particular love for Pakistan. They give the highest priority to the most profitable and promising countries in the world which impose few restrictions on their operations. In Pakistan, despite the deregulation and decontrol measures announced, and slashing of corporate and personal taxes and abolition of tax on dividend income of listed companies, the difficulties foreign investors have to face are still too many . Among them are tedious procedural constraints for investment which waste a great deal of time and inflate the investment cost, critical infrastructural inadequacies, including shortage of power, gas and in some places water, high cost of labour because of its low productivity and the difficulty in getting the right local partners who are ready to really invest instead of wanting to make large profits by managing the joint projects. They protest that the high import duty and sales tax inflate the cost of raw materials, and heavy excise duties push up the manufacturing cost, while such goods are permitted to come in freely in large quantities through smuggling or through Pakistan's 1.5 million workers abroad after paying little or no taxes. Pakistan's market for large-scale industries is said to be small, particularly after varied taxes had raised the prices of such products and reduced consumption and they cannot export many such products, because of the proliferation of

export-free zones in the region. Above all there has been talk in the West of Pakistan being a high risk country, particularly after the manner India chooses to adopt threatening military postures and talk of war then becomes common.

Pakistan yet needs substantial foreign investment as that can bring advanced foreign technology, introduce Pakistanis to new management and marketing styles and increase employment avenues. The government seems to like foreign companies as they today pay two-thirds of the revenues from corporate taxes, while tax evasion from the much larger Pakistani sector is heavy.

But foreign investors have shown more interest in consumer industries or in banks, insurance companies and other service operations where the investment is small and the profits high and quick. They are also reluctant to invest in companies where the Pakistan capital is 51 per cent or close to that. If relaxing such limitations can bring in larger investment, that should be done which, of course, should depend on the nature of the project, the extent of new technology it brings in, particularly in the area of electronics and capital goods industry, etc. Secondly, if higher royalty payments have to be made for really advanced products, the Government should not hesitate and, of course, announcements of decontrol and deregulation at the policy level, should be followed by rapid and real changes in practice and procedure at the operational level. It is obvious that as the old packages and procedures have failed, the Government should now come up with a new pragmatic package. Pakistani entrepreneurs too, should play a positive and realistic role to make such large-scale foreign investment easy and smooth, as ultimately this will benefit them hugely.

/9317
CSO: 4600/175

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

JUNE 15, 1987